



INVINCIBLE SAINT SALARYMAN

2ND COMPILATION
BOOK 06 TO 10

Broccoli Lion

EPUB CREATION BY LISA HAYES

Invincible Saint Salaryman, the Path I Walk to Survive in This Other World

(聖者無双 ～サラリーマン、異世界で生き残るために歩む道～)

by

TodayAgain

(오늘도요)

Synopsis

One day, Earth's God of Destiny, and Galdardia's Chief God had a bet.

The God of Destiny lost, and chose ten mediocre souls to hand over.

To those ten souls, the Chief God of Galdardia handed them new vessels.

And amongst those mediocre souls was one salaryman who fought against his destiny of death.

How will this man grow from now on?

Not the God of Destiny, nor the Chief God of Galdardia, nor even the author themselves know.

Copyright © 2016 by Lisa Hayes

First Edition: October 2016

All rights reserved.

English Translation by Tseirp @ [Tseirp Translations](#)

ePub conversion by Lisa Hayes @ [Hasseno Blog](#)

This is a free eBook. You are free to give it away (in unmodified form) to whomever you wish.

No part of this eBook may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the author.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

Book 6: Ienith's Internal Affairs And The Crawling Darkness

Chapter 079: Finding Out Ienith's Current Situation

Within Ienith's Healer's Guild, I requested the oldest healer, Mark-san, to be my substitute as the person-in-charge but he firmly refused and gave me easily understandable reasons.

“Jordo may be young but he has greater unifying ability than me. The healers, including me, recommend Jordo as Luciel-dono's successor.”

” ... Would you all devote yourself and support him like you have done for me until now?”

“Yes. We have not told Jordo, but to allow the Healer's Guild to take root in this land, the most important factor is to manage it for the long term, regardless of the changing of the Healer's Guild guildmaster.”

“I see. Understood. Well then, I wish that you will assist Jordo-san in the future.”

“Yes! Luciel-sama.”

He left the guildmaster room with a smile.

The next day, I appointed Jordo-san as the Healer's Guild's assistant guildmaster.

“I will entrust the management of the Healer’s Guild to you from today onwards. As soon as the new Healer’s Guild is completed within the Healer’s District, you will become the Healer’s Guild guildmaster in that Healer’s Guild.”

Jordo-san who was standing in front of me showed me a bewildered expression.

“This is a consensus from the healers. In addition, we have obtained approval from the Pope and I believe the notification will arrive soon so I wish you all the best.”

” ... Why did you choose me?”

“Your youth and unifying ability. To be honest, I followed seniority and asked Mark-san but he neatly turned me down and gave me an explanation. Moreover, for me, it would be easier to converse if it is Jordo-san.”

” ... Ha~ I understand. I accept.”

“Thank you. Well, we are both middle management roles who have no right to decline so let’s both work hard.”

I extended my right hand as I laughed and Jordo-san also extended his right hand and we exchanged a firm handshake.

For the following 10 days after we returned from the labyrinth, such movement of personnel occurred and there were a couple of matters that I had decided upon.

Firstly, I formed the criminal slaves into Kefin squad, Yarubo squad, and Baderu squad and assigned them to be in charge of escorting.

The escort target to defend was me and the Healer's Guild. I would have 2 squads of escorts and the Healer's Guild would have 1 squad of escort reside within the guild.

To put it simply, other than defending the Healer's Guild once every 3 days, they would be by my side.

Lionel and Cathy would act as my escort and training partner while Naria would, as much as possible, be in charge of the food and chores in the Healing District.

Dolan and Paula are to analyse the items we obtained in the labyrinth and I have requested for them to make the items I want but it seems like they are struggling with that so they are obedient for now.

Hearing a knock on the door, I descended the stairs together with Kefin who came up to call me, discovering Kefin's squad, Baderu's squad, and Lionel and Cathy waiting. Gathering the leaders, we headed for the mansion.

” ... Why do I sense eyes of fear and respect?”

What awaited me when I left the Healer’s Guild were that kind of stares.

“It seems like after you made Jasuan-dono drink that, they are afraid of you.”

Kefin told me.

” ... But he woke up soon after we left right?”

“He was trembling after he heard S-rank-sama’s name so it conveyed to the others that something happened.”

” ... I have a really bad feeling.”

“If I remember correctly, your new nickname was ...”

“Ah~ Not listening not listening. This conversation is over!”

I slightly covered my ears and quickly walked ahead. The squad leaders gathered and headed for the mansion.

Even though they were laughing at the sight of me, they still firmly acted as my escorts.

The mansion gate guards greeted us as we entered and the entourage of the respective representatives of each tribe welcomed us.

Incidentally, there was the trembling Jasuan-dono with Jias-dono beside him supporting him.

Seeing him, I wonder if I was a little too severe? Although I had that thought, I consider it a legitimate punishment so I disregarded that thought and addressed the representatives of the respective tribes.

“Thank you for coming out to greet us. The Pope have told me to do my best for Ienith so I will accept the role of representative. I am incompetent and an amateur to urban development so without your help I would not be able to achieve anything. Which is why, please cooperate with me to once again make Ienith prosper.”

There was a significant change within my heart these 10 days.

In the beginning, I was reluctant, to begin with, I didn't have a complete grasp of the situation so there was no need for me to butt in.

It should originally be done by Shiela-chan's father and the representative from the 8 races.

Then, Kefin and the others who grew up in the back alleys of the city told me the information they have gathered.

In addition, I realised that I have Lionel, who I believe had authority in a distant country, at my side, so I aimed to rely on him.

The Flame Dragon also told me to trust others and let others depend on me ... Since I would not be fighting with monsters during my term, I was mildly optimistic about my new target, to challenge something fresh.

There would not be much change with just a single year and it could prevent me from doing anything reckless.

After thinking it through, instead of unease, a feeling of excitement was beginning to sprout within me.

Also, within these 10 days, the most eventful incident was the increase of slaves.

Gurohara confessed about another infiltrator from the Empire.

That happened when I had the conversation with Lionel and the others about the future.

Jasuan-dono came running to the Healer's Guild asking for help.

Apparently the slave dealer who I purchased Lionel and the others from was the infiltrator.

We proceeded to the slave dealer and safeguarded the slaves.

When I was thinking about that, a voice called out to me.

“Luciel-dono, I’ll be in your care.”

『We’ll be in your care.』

Because the representatives bowed down, I approached each of them and after exchanging handshakes, it came to a conclusion.

“I am sorry but because I do not know much about this city, please instruct me about everything.”

I will first make a summary of the overview of the country and the current policies in place they’ve detailed to me.

There seem to be 10 beastmen races living in Ienith, the capital of the Free City-States of Ienith. Currently, the Bear beastmen and Racoon beastmen were not present because apparently their numbers are too few so they are not included in the meetings.

It was explained to me that they are still citizens so if they have any requests they can hold a discussion.

The total population of the capital Ienith is roughly 6 thousand.

That number equals the population of the Holy Capital Schull or Meratoni so it didn't feel like much for the sole city of the country.

When I asked about it, I was told that the more territorial individuals created their own villages.

I felt that managing that would be tricky as I received the explanation regarding the land next.

From the description, the border was larger than I had expected. I could only judge by viewing the map, but the land boasts an area twice the size of the Saint Schull Allied Nations.

However, they also supplemented that a large half of it is unsuitable living environment as it is made up of cliffs, mountains, and undeveloped forests.

Looking at the map, located to the East is the Principality of Blange, to the Northeast is the Labyrinth Nation Grandol, and to the North is the Saint Schull Allied Nations.

I was told that the country earns foreign currency through trade with these 3 countries.

I was also told that located to the West is a mountain range and beyond that spreads the open sea.

However, because nobody has been there to confirm that, it was a blank zone.

The source of income for the residents living in Ienith seems to overwhelmingly be from trading with the Adventurer's Guild.

Apparently, because they can enter undeveloped areas by all means to hunt rare monsters, adventurers find it easy to have their base of activity here, second only to Grandol.

Apart from that, the residents either work in the field, become an adventurer themselves or register in guilds if they have the talent.

As for the food situation, there are plenty of wheat grown for individual consumption in the fields, but apart from that, spices such as herbs and red peppers are commonly grown in order to earn foreign currency. Thanks to the climate, they grow well and at a reasonable amount so a stable supply of export is achieved.

I believe it has nothing to do with the fact that beastmen live in Ienith, but I heard that there isn't a culture of eating vegetables and they are mostly oriented towards and prefer to eat monster meat.

Following that, the current policies in place were terrible.

The majority are focused towards attracting adventurers and cultivation methods for spices, and there was completely no discussion about improving the lives of the residents.

Writing down the important points, problematic points and points of interest on a piece of parchment, I sighed at the thought of the various hardships I will have to go through for the coming year.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

I'm guilty of trivial mistakes right out of the gate in the 6th volume.

I can only laugh wryly (>w<).

This would be the only chapter for today. Sorry.

Chapter 080: Ienith's Prudent Management

Shockingly, without collecting taxes from the residents, the majority of the country's financial resources came from the export of the specialty spices produced here. Because of such a large bias towards the spice export, I couldn't help but consider what would happen if the weather was unfavourable as I listened to the explanations.

"I understand that the country's revenue stems from the periodic transfer of payments from the various guilds and the sale of the spices produced by the country. What about the expenditures?"

If the expenditures are high, I'll begin by shaving off what I can shave off.

"The expenditures only involves personnel expenses. Also, it's only once every couple of years, but there would be some expenditure required to develop magic tools that we beastmen can use as well."

Shiela-chan's father Ouga-dono answered me after thinking but at that moment I remembered something with an uncomfortable feeling.

"... Do you have a balance of payments report?"

If the expenditures are only labour cost and magic tools ... then if the magic tools are not expensive, why would they face losses? I had my doubts.

“Yes. Please wait a minute.”

The person who said that and left his seat was the fox beastman Folence-dono.

The returning Folence-dono handed me a thick ledger but a completely unexpected situation was written within it.

” ... Erm? Looking at this ledger, I believe there isn’t any need for me to be involved in managing the country?”

There weren’t any large expenses within the ledger. It was a balance of payments report that showed steady progress over the years.

The yearly final net income was increasing and judging by the significant surplus, they had so much surplus that it was excessive.

“That’s not true. Certainly, there are funds in the national treasury, but it might not remain like that forever. Furthermore, we wish to allow the future generations to challenge the various possibilities of the dreams they may hold. For example, a first beastman healer.”

Ouga-dono said and laughed.

In retrospect, I was approached to become Ienith’s

representative, but only as a revered existence of strength and kindness. I realised that I was not given any instructions or funds, and neither was I told to reform the country.

Looking at the country and the beastmen, I wondered if I unconsciously looked down upon them as my face burned red from embarrassment.

They were already running the country splendidly.

Furthermore, they were not living luxuriantly nor satisfied with the current situation, but instead repeatedly stacked up various discussions to allow their future generations to embrace their hopes and dreams.

Taking that into consideration, Gurohara, who was sent by the Empire, had a valid strategy, which was to entice Shaza and the corrupted beastmen to decay Ienith's internal structure.

While thinking about the dreadfulness of the Elimasia Empire ... I was given a summary regarding the tasks that utilizes their unique features, the children's education grounds, and the effective use of the wide land.

“The fact that you all have been steadily managing Ienith can be understood with just a glance. I don't have many ideas that I can come up with, but, once again, I will do my best to rebuild Ienith.”

It was for self-satisfaction, but I began by lowering my head.

They were panicking a little but they felt something after I raised my head and they didn't comment on anything.

“This might be an amateurish thought, but there are a couple of heads present to bounce the idea around so I'll say it out. Firstly, I wish to build schools. Schools for children to study and schools for adults to study.”

The surrounding air solidified.

” ... For adults as well?”

A dog beastman, Sebec-dono, raised his hand.

“Yeah. If you all are literate and are capable of calculations then it would be unnecessary, but the truth is there are some who discover the joy of learning after becoming adults. It would be tough to perform the same task at the same location everyday and people may suffer from the lack of communication.”

“However, does that mean they would not be able to work?”

This time, the cat beastman, Castel-dono, raised his hand and spoke.

“Yes. That is certainly true. Which is why I plan to separate the

classes to day and night classes.”

“But I believe there are certain families that consider children as part of their labour force?”

The wolf beastman, Olga-dono, spoke out.

“Yes. In consideration of that, we should purchase the country’s debt slaves. Once they complete the corresponding labour period that pays for their debt, they will be released and if they work seriously, they might even open a new path for themselves. Of course, I only plan to work them humanely.”

“Only debt slaves?”

The one who spoke this time was the bird beastman, Souther-dono.

“Please leave the law-breaking slaves to me. However, it would definitely be difficult to work with war slaves or criminal slaves so I do not plan to purchase them for the country.”

“Who will be in charge of them?”

The rabbit beastman, Ririaldo-dono’s ears were moving round and round as he asked.

“We can leave that to the retired adventurers. I wish to leave the

selection up to the Adventurer's Guild.”

“What are you plans for the adult and children tuition fees?”

Forens-dono's sharp eyes shined.

“I plan to collect tuition fee from the adults but not from the children. Naturally, those with bad behaviour and cannot be calmed down will be expelled from school. Including those who bully half-borns. I thought of deciding on the tuition cost during this discussion.”

After I said that, the various beastman representatives in front of me crossed their hands and began thinking. At that moment, Guruga-dono's voice rang out.

“What do you plan to teach?”

“I mentioned it earlier, it will be literacy and calculations. I plan to start with those first. I believe those can be learnt without spending much time.”

” ... If, that succeeds, then what do you plan to do?”

I laughed and answered Ririaldo-dono's question.

“In addition to martial arts training and magic studies for the children, it might be good to call members of the various guilds to

come give lectures. If that happens, the children's choice of professions will widen in the future. However, once they discover the world, they might find farm work dull so in the distant future we might need to raise the wages ...”

” ... I see. So the school will be the place for children's future and a place for adults to interact.”

Olga-dono's spoke out once again but he had a somewhat difficult expression.

” ... ”

『 ... 』

” ... ”

『... Are there any ideas to attract adventurers?』

” ... There is also the option to create a system to mediate the adventurers who cannot continue staying active in this wide expanse of land due to age, injury, wedding or birth to begin a second life of work here.”

” ... You mean for the non-active duty adventurers?”

Well, I guess that's how everyone would normally think. However, it is usually impossible to continue fighting in the

battlefield for life. Adventurers usually wish to retire somewhere where they are not bound to anybody. Even I ... ha~.

“We can gather adventurers to advance into the southern undeveloped land by lending them houses for free in exchange for 5-10% of their income. Even if they are retired, as long as they can earn money, people will gather.”

” ... How should we in Ienith go about doing that?”

Aren't we currently discussing that? I thought as I decided to tell everyone my opinion.

“If the healing district that we discussed before is established, I believe adventurers will gather themselves. It is a dangerous job so they would definitely choose a place that is safe.”

Everyone raised a cheer of joy to mention of the healing district. Well, there is peace of mind from the healing magic that can heal most injuries and from the useful medicine of the Herbalist Guild.

Jordo-san is handling the negotiation with that side as well ...

The dragonewt beastman Jack-san quietly raised his hand and directed a question to me.

“Are you considering new industries?”

“I have not given it much thought. However, it may be possible that the obstructing trees and cut down lumber from the cultivation of the undeveloped land produces a new industry. If we level the ground after logging and replant the forest, it might become an industry that can lead us into the future.”

” ... Development huh.”

They most likely have had bitter experiences.

“I accept any suggestion! I have no intention of implementing these words tyrannically. I may not be able to achieve anything in a year, but I plan to steadily churn out ideas.”

I paused for a moment maintaining my smile. Everybody examined their surroundings and once again began discussing.

“You have all managed this country so splendidly so let us further discuss these ideas. Let’s do some urban planning, such that the residents can live more comfortably with infrastructure upgrades and make it such that the more territorial individuals would want to live here or travel here for leisure.”

After I said that, they gradually begin to smile and point out the issues with the previous suggestions. After surveying Ienith the next day, the talks were progressing.

A smile naturally spilled onto my face as it has been a long time since I used my knowledge from my consultation work. I wish to

solve as many problems as possible during my term to create a fine country.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

I will continue diligently.

Chapter 081: Reincarnation Predecessors

And What's Possible In Ienith

The next morning, we did some rounds around the city of Ienith but some issues surfaced.

” ... It is difficult with this number of people.”

With us, the various tribal representatives, their aides and the escorts, our numbers could easily form an army company.

“Today, Olga-dono will guide us to the places where the wolf beastmen gather. Tomorrow, Forens-dono, please show us visit the places where the fox beastmen gather in order. Also, please think of a method for the bear tribe and racoon tribe to come to good terms.”

I told them that. Going visiting with such numbers would clearly bring about an adverse effect and I directed Kefin squad to the influential members in the slums where many of the half-borns live in Ienith.

Even though I heard that I could borrow their power to build the Healing District, would they really so conveniently be thankful for it? Such questions were filling my head.

” ... It's true that it would be hard to walk with so many people.”

The bird beastman, Souther-dono, spoke out and the other tribes immediately agreed to my suggestion as long as I agree to visit their own tribe's locations.

Stepping out of the mansion where we gathered, we headed for the districts where most of the wolf beastman live in.

“There are many single-storied houses huh.”

When I commented on that, Olga-dono replied.

As far as my eyes could see, there weren't any two-storied buildings, it felt like the sky was nearer.

“Yeah. Including us, the majority of the beastmen typically spend time with their families. Which is why it is mainstream for a great deal inhabitants to live in single-storied houses unless they run a business.”

While laughing, Olga-dono stroked Shiela-chan who was clinging to him.

“I see. Although, we didn't pass by many people, have they all gone for work?”

After leaving the leader mansion, we arrived at the wolf beastman district in 30 minutes but the number of people outside was extremely small.

“Yes. Generally for the wolf beastmen, most of the males would become guards and patrol around the fields while the females spend their time in the fields while taking care of the children.”

“I see. Does each of the tribes serve different roles?”

“Yes. Our country has the same weather all year round, so the work is split into field work, plowing, mowing, harvesting, processing and lookout against monsters.”

... In my previous world, I heard that mowing the grass was the toughest job for farmers but they can't complain because monsters might come out if they don't do it.

“By the way, are there any food that all tribes can't eat in common?”

” ... Oh yeah. There were rumours which spread for a period of time that said that the whole body would itch if vegetables in the leek family were consumed but that is not true.”

That's right. In this world, even if the dog beastmen and wolf beastmen ate onion or leek, they would be totally fine.

I heard of this from Grulga-san but I asked to confirm just in case.

Judging by the Garba-san and Grulga-san brothers, I have a feeling that an irreversible accident would happen someday.

But thankfully it seemed like it was true this time around.

“Well, there are tribes that consume that raw, but I would never be able to like it to that extent.”

He looked away as he replied. Then what about his favourite food? I wondered but it did not differ from the favourite food of the canines in my previous world.

” ... So your favourite food would be cheese after all?”

“Yeah. Exactly. That characteristic smell is irresistible.”

While he smiled, I was taught that cheese which had just begun to slightly ferment was the favourite due to the strong smell.

But I inadvertently laughed when Olga-san slightly trembled and commented that Object X is different.

He said that their potable water was pumped up from wells so I imagined the fantasy-like wells but they were respectable hand-pump wells instead.

” ... Who devised this system?”

“I heard it was all devised by Philosopher-sama. To make sure this region would not be bothered by the lack of water, he searched for the water veins underground and had the dwarves make this equipment. But apparently it is commonplace in the other cities and villages to use magic tools.”

” ... Is that so.”

No way, even the Philosopher was a reincarnated individual ... that’s not funny. Subsequently, it also proves that the Philosopher also spread the method to make the previously mentioned cheese and curry.

After that, I barely listened to Olga-dono’s words as I was finally convinced when it was close to noon that the individuals that either reincarnated or transferred here during an earlier era tried their best to live.

I plan to do the same so I decided to make full use of my knowledge.

The lunch for today was from a shop that provided extremely tasty curry and freshly baked naan.

” ... Many of the wolf beastmen are great at cooking but why is that?”

“These are also words left behind by the Philosopher, but he said that we have the way of thinking of cooks due to our better and

more sensitive noses compared to humans. Especially the wolf beastmen where there are many devoted types so maybe a lot of them ventured down the path of cooking.”

Philosophers other than Sir Rainstar also taught the method of making soap and apparently there was also talks about creating a hot spring town.

It was great that they taught the method to make soap.

Without that, it can be said that there might not even be the current Ienith. It was the cornerstone of development.

Next, about the hot spring plan, apparently they found the source. However, the smell of sulfur was too overwhelming and it was found that the smell caused monsters to increase their activity so the plan was abandoned.

There were also land reformations, they sent out instructions to mix the field and soil with leaf mulch and to plant lime but it failed and they bought food from other countries for the residents at their own expense.

Now, after spending long years the optimal percentage to mix and plant has been found and is now a state-owned information.

” ... So Sir Rainstar wasn’t a perfect superman after all.”

I was slightly relieved and muttered.

He felt like a perfect superman when I read the books but knowing that he had quite the human aspect to him made me feel relieved.

“Have you been troubled with something since awhile ago?”

“I had some things to think about. I’m surprised that Sir Rainstar had an episode of failure.”

Olga-dono was worried and asked because I was silent but laughed after my reply.

Assuming that there are many reincarnated persons living here, I decided to change my focus from developing the city to making the city easier to live in.

The next day, Forens-dono from the fox beastmen which presides over trade guided me to the places where the fox beastmen live.

“In this way, we focus on trading with the adventurers and conduct transactions with the Merchant’s Guild to attract merchants.”

The reason why the Merchant’s Guild was placed in the city seems to be because it is required to attract merchants over. This way, there is no burden on Ienith.

During export of the spices, adding in the intermediary margin for the Merchant's Guild, the merchants purchase the spices.

Conversely, although merchants also transport goods over, only registered state-owned merchant houses can wholesale those goods to the various shops.

Because of that, there is no price competition between the merchants in this city.

It's a city that lacks in excitement for the merchants.

"A considerable number of merchants criticized the system when the operations first began. It was like telling the merchants that they cannot polish their skills ... Well, even so, almost all of the goods will be purchased in this system so apparently many of the merchants who met failure before were saved by it. Now there is a rumour going around that if you want to consistently make a living then Ienith is the place to be."

Forens-dono proudly smiled.

Asking in detail, apparently the selling prices for whatever good and where to sell them can be found at the Merchant's Guild. It is a system possible precisely because it belongs to the country.

"5w2h, no now it is 6w2h." (TL: 5w2h = what, where, who, why, when, how, how much; 6w2h just adds whom.)

“What are you saying?”

“No, I was just remembering the old times. Oh right, then does the slave dealers work in a similar fashion?”

I remembered my past in my previous life where I was ridiculed for only knowing about 5w1h but there wasn't a need to talk about it so I changed the topic.

” ... No, the slave dealers are different. Because we cannot decide on the prices of the slaves.”

” ... The slave dealers do not need to work through the Merchant's Guild?”

“As long as they register with the country and the Merchant's Guild and received approval, they can open a slave dealership as a slave dealer. 20% of the net income must be paid to the country and 10% to the Merchant's Guild. Of course, the slaves who enter the country are inspected so there are no law-breaking slaves in Ienith.”

“I see.”

“Other than that, we also purchase the meat of the monsters defeated by the Adventurer's Guild for a certain amount of money.”

... Actually, I heard that there was going to be a slave auction so

was that supposed to be illegal? I thought and asked but apparently it was legal.

Incidentally, apart from those who were pressured by Shaza to refuse our purchase of goods when we first arrived, all the individuals involved have either been converted into slaves or have their assets confiscated and have to restart from the bottom.

As the population increases, this system would begin to reach its limit. While thinking about that, I listened intently to Forens-san's words.

From the next day onward, I was informed of their special features by each of the tribes and on the 9th day, I finally met the racoon beastmen.

“Luciel-sama, this is the racoon beastman Warabisu-dono.”

Olga-dono introduced me to a racoon ornament. No, but it was moving so it was indeed a beastman.

“Nice to meet you, I'm Luciel. For a year, I will take up the role of the temporary representative for Ienith.”

“I'll ... be in your care pu~. I am Warabisu, the tentative representative for the racoon beastmen pu~.”

He spoke in a slow manner which makes one feel exhausted but these people are actually more attentive.

” ... Please let me know if you have anything troubling you.”

“Understood pu~. Come closer and I’ll give you this pu~.”

After saying that, he took out a necklace made of gold.

“It looks well crafted. It could be mistaken for the real thing.”

Olga-dono glared at me when I said that.

“So Olga told you pu~.”

However, that wasn’t the reason why I found out.

“No, it wasn’t Olga-san. I was taught that the present given by racoon beastmen during the first meeting would be a fake item.”

” ... Who is that person pu~.”

“A wolf beastman called Garba-san, but you would not know him even if I say his name right?”

However, the moment Garba-san’s name was mentioned, Warabisu-dono’s face immediately turned blue.

” ... I’m sorry pu~. Please forgive me for my rudeness pu~. Which is why please do not tell this to Garba-sama pu~.”

The previously slow speech completely changed ... what happened Garba-san?

“I understand. Then if you know Garba-san you would so know Grulga-san ... eh?”

Warabisu-dono had fainted before I was aware.

” ... I had no idea you were acquaintances with those 2.”

Olga-dono smiled nostalgically.

“Yeah. In the town of Meratoni in the Saint Schull Allied Nations, they were working as staff of the Adventurer’s Guild. Grulga-san was the one who made me drink Object X and Garba-san was the one who taught me dismantling and the way to remove my presence ... I’m very indebted to them.”

” ... So Grulga-san have not given up on his pursuit?”

“Of what?”

“The pursuit of secretly using that as seasoning.”

” ... Don’t tell me.”

“Yeah. Warabisu-dono is the same age with Grulga-dono so he was forced to eat those food cooked with that.”

So he had his inquisitive mind since long ago ... If that’s the case then why was he frightened by Garba-san then?

“I can understand his reaction from remembering about Grulga-san and Object X, but what about Garba-san?”

“Garba-dono was said to be the child prodigy of Ienith as he grew up and was really popular. However, his preaching could hollow out a person’s heart regardless of age and sex so it was an implicit rule to never anger Garba-dono.”

The slightly sweating and smiling Olga-san must have also angered him before.

That was the feeling I got.

“Erm, what should we do with Warabisu-dono?”

“If you bring that close he would wake up.”

He plugged his nose and laughed.

“Warabisu-san, if you don’t wake up I’ll have you drink Object X.”

“Good morning pu~.”

He woke up in the blink of an eye.

“It’s alright. If you prank me I’ll just have you drink Object X together with me.”

When I said that and grinned, he desperately began talking about the value of existence of the racoon beastmen.

Their hands were dextrous so woodworking, sewing, crafting, and manufacturing were their forte and they were the only beastmen who can use magic.

“The racoon beastmen only excel in such business so even the legendary family was born after the racoon beastmen’s guidance pu~. I was charged with the Toretto legendary family pu~.”

“Eh? Really? I was also an acquaintance of Toretto-san. This robe was also made by him. I’ll let Toretto-san know that I met Warabisu-san the next time we meet.”

“You, you are acquainted?”

“Yeah. He’s a great man who also gave me magic tools. Well,

although his personality is slightly too strong.”

He said that he would cooperate if anything comes up later pu~
and left.

“Seems like a tribe that is competent apart from exaggerating
their words and their pranks.”

“Yeah. That is true.”

While having such silly talks, the points to be improved for the
internal affairs was gradually being constructed in my mind.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 082: Luciel's Scheme

I stiffened when I looked at the bear beastman, Brian-dono, in front of me.

“Nice to meet you, I am the bear beastman Brian. I may look like this but I still have strength.”

With a bitter voice he flexed his bicep and laughed as he introduced himself.

My heart was screaming to me that his figure was way too cute.

(Aren't you a teddy bear~!)

There are bear monsters in this world.

Red Grizzly, Blood Grizzly, Hell Grizzly and the likes had appearances that are exactly like bears.

Grulga-san is a wolf beastman but because of his physique he was called the cooking bear.

And now actually meeting the bear beastmen for the first time, they were fluffy people about 70cm in height.

” ... Nice to meet you, I'm Luciel. It's only for a year, but I will be the representative for Ienith. I will do my best to assist if you have

any troubles.”

While exchanging a handshake, I tried asking about his appearance.

” ... It is the first time I’ve met bear beastmen but do all of you have such physiques?”

“Yeah. However, this is a temporary form.”

Upon saying that, Brian-dono was enveloped in light and transformed into a huge bear.

“This is my original form.”

I was convinced looking at his appearance ... it was then that the guide today, the bird beastman Souther-dono, laughed as he informed me.

“Brian-dono, you don’t need to lie to this person.”

“Lie?”

When I asked that, Brian-dono returned to his original cute form and spoke.

“Actually, this form is my true form. In the past, due to our

cuteness, many of the rabbit beastmen and us were forcibly kidnapped to become slaves. Which is why, as countermeasures, we have a rule to activate our magical power when people from outside countries are present.”

He informed me.

Certainly, just looking at their appearance, their calming presence and cute movements would most likely cause them to be treated as pet animals.

I could easily imagine it.

“That’s tough. So do you have anything troubling you?”

” ... Is it possible to import honey? I understand it is a luxury good but we want to have that.”

With those cute eyes looking at me, even if I took into consideration that Brian-dono is a man, I could only think that it can’t be helped.

” ... I’ll take it into consideration. So what does the bear beastmen usually do?”

“We cultivate medicinal herbs and work together with the dragonewt tribe to expand the city.”

So their strength and dexterity are high? I thought about that as we finished our meeting.

That night, under Kefin's guidance, I wanted to meet face-to-face with the slum's boss.

“So the reason why S-rank healer-sama came here is to ask if residents of the slums are really content with only getting work? You came to ask about that?”

“Yeah. I believe it would be fine until the Healing District is completed but I cannot guarantee your livelihood after that. There are a lot of people living here as well so is there any methods available?”

The human and fox beastman half-born, Dollarstar, stared at me before shaking his head and saying.

“Listen S-rank healer-sama, there is no equality in this world. Do you, the person who converted my subordinates Kefin and the others into slaves, understand? Do you understand my feelings when I see my subordinates act more lively as slaves under you?”

It was easy to understand after thinking for a bit.

There shouldn't be that many shadowy organizations in Ienith.

I looked at Kefin and spoke.

“I honestly don’t understand. However, if you think of them as family then I guess you would hate me enough to want to kill me.”

“And I’m doing work for someone like you. Now you talk about what’s ahead, are you here to pick a fight with us who do our best to survive day to day!”

Anger shown through Dollarstar’s eyes and I could interpret that there are various other conflicts.

I slowly shook my head and slightly mixed some changes to my words.

“I was refused when I offered to release them from their slave position. He, they want to create a city and school that even half-borns would not avoid. What do you think about that?”

” ... ”

He stared at Kefin’s face dumbfounded.

“Even if the Healing District is completed, the people in Ienith would definitely not change their impression of the residents of the slums.”

” ... If you say anymore worthless crap I’ll kill you even if you die.”

... So scary. A grudge shrouded over those eyes.

“It is a proposal from me, but do you want to start a new business with me? I will provide the capital.”

“New business?”

“Yes. As I said earlier, I will provide the funds. However I believe it is a job with high risks.”

” ... What do you intend to have us do?”

“I want you to ” (TL: He didn't pause, the author hid it suspense~ but easily deduced >_<“)

” ... Seriously?”

“Yes. Even that Sir Rainstar failed and it is useless but it is worth trying. If it succeeds within the year of my term, I will work to have it formally accepted as a state-owned business.”

Even if it is useless to try, I believe it is good as long as it succeeds someday.

” ... Why? Why do you go to such extents?”

“I believe that even if you do not have the choice of where to be born in, everyone have the right to be happy. If half-borns are treated with contempt then I only plan to create an environment where they are called hybrid beastmen.”

As I smiled and said those words, I snorted at my own smugness in my heart.

I could not bring myself to say that I could not say those words when my half-born senpais were struggling and that if I could save them just slightly then I believe it would definitely help myself.

” ... Please.”

Dollarstar-san lowered his head and decided to trust me and knead the plan together with me for the new business.

The next day, during the meeting with the leaders, the discussion for the schools to be built after the Healing District was completed and for the first shot at attracting the adventurers, the adventurers house, was conducted.

“We will construct schools within the Healing District and adventurers houses for middle to high rank adventurers in Ienith. So the adventurers will gather and spread into the forest and enter the undeveloped land.”

“Even though it is good for the Healing District, we do not have sufficient materials to build the schools.”

“Moreover, we cannot move the people currently working on the present projects.”

“We do not plan to use the money from the national treasury to direct the movement into the undeveloped land.”

Just like that, there were many negative opinions but no matter the world, there would always be negative voices whenever the already established system is renewed or reconstructed.

On a public front they look like they are taking Ienith into consideration but I believe their real intention is to keep the current system.

“Yes. Which is why I intend to set off towards the undeveloped forest and retrieve wood. I understood that we do not have the manpower when you all showed me the city.

” ... So where would the school be built?”

“I intend to build it where the slums currently is. Ah, the same for the residences for the adventurers. I have currently asked the residents from the slums to do some high risk work so the slums will definitely be reborn.”

When I said that, many of the people’s eyes changed. And then their opinions also began to change.

“If you can say it so confidently then I am in favour of the plan.”

“Yes. The money will be spent for the Healing District and other than labour cost, if you say that there would not be any material cost then there’s no problem.”

“So is it agreeable that I am responsible for the slums?”

There weren’t any objections.

Now, if I create work possible for the retired adventurers, then I believe a new wind will blow upon Ienith.

I pray that it will be a good thing for the people who live in Ienith.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

My delusional power was enhanced by writing the Rainstar book.

Chapter 083: To The Undeveloped Forest

The next morning, I led Lionel's squad, Kefin's squad, and Yarubo's squad and left Ienith, departing for the forest within the undeveloped land.

"It seems like you've accumulated a bit of stress lately?"

"... Yeah. However, there are times when I have to do what I must."

"But you are working too hard nya."

"You don't have any experience managing such domestic affairs right?"

"Yeah, none at all. But thanks to my perseverance, I got their assurance that they will remodel the slums so I believe this stress is a small price to pay?"

Lionel and Cathy were, "Burururu" and Fornoir, were concerned about me.

These past 10 days has been tough for various reasons.

Between getting to know about each beastmen's specialty and how to go about planning the new business, I felt like I was in an actual straitjacket, in a situation where I could not do anything.

The working population made up 80% of the people while the remaining 20% was made up of children, those who cannot move their body and the elderly.

Thinking that that is a healthy distribution might instead deprive the beastmen of their fighting instinct.

“However, you sent a letter to the Adventurer’s Guild right?”

“Yeah. I thought of informing the beastmen who know about this beastmen country about the current situation.”

Lionel and Cathy were puzzled but they steadily began preparations.

“Well then, heading toward the forest today, how many trees do you plan to cut down?”

“Eh? Yeah, I’ll instruct those girls today how many would be fine to be cut down.”

I pointed at the carriage behind with my thumb.

“However, I am still worried if that is a lucky thing or an unlucky thing.”

” ... So it was just as Gurohara mentioned, the slaves from the

Empire mediated with that slave dealer?”

“Yeah. In the end, we did not capture him and we don’t know if there’s any underlying scheme involving the slaves that he left behind but I have a feeling that the grudge from the Empire was worsened once again.”

“Kukuku. Well, you could use them to construct the facilities like the orphanage so maybe it was a good thing.”

“That’s because Dolan and Paula made the orphanage and Naria purchased trainers for the children. However ... ”

“You can’t blame them for saying they want to return to being slaves nya. There were kids that had lost most of their limbs or children that did not have sufficient to eat nya. Rather than being dumped at a strange foreign place, they would prefer to thank Luciel-sama nya.”

” ... I really can’t get used to the -sama suffix after all.”

I became slightly embarrassed and gazed ahead.

The slave dealer I bought Lionel and others from was an assassin from the Empire.

But rather than that, I felt like the slave dealer had the role of screening for wealthy beastmen and individuals with strong desires.

Jasuan-dono headed directly for the slave dealership after hearing the talk. The guys and girls treated as slaves were weak but to be safe, there was a possibility that they received strange orders so I was called over to remove their slave contract using 「Dispel」.

When I was helping the 14 slaves, after I got their word that they will not talk about me applying recovery magic on all the members present, I healed all the guys and girls.

Currently, in order to become a receptionist or take up other roles in the Healer's Guild, the guys and girls were receiving an education.

Unfortunately, the young man at that time was no longer there so he might have been purchased by some other person or he was dragged along by the slave dealer to act as his escort.

“However, I was taken aback that they commandeered that slave dealership.”

“Even so, those guys and girls are grateful nya. Of course, including me as well nya.”

“Indeed. A debt must be paid with a debt.”

The warm smile from the 2 of them healed my heart.

The road ended halfway along the journey but the grass was not tall enough to obstruct us as well and soon the forest was spread across our eyes in front of us.

“Well then, can the 3 elves alight?”

Dolan, Paula, and the elves alighted from the carriage together.

Their eyes no longer held the look of grief and despair from when I first saw them but now another problem erupted.

“Dwarf magic tools are the best.”

“I can make better magic tools than you can.”

The half-dwarf Paula and Elf Rician competed with their magic tool skills ... or with their mouths currently.

“A dwarf like me loved by fire and earth is more useful to Luciel-sama.”

“This old decrepit sure can make a ruckus~. An elf loved by the life-carrying wind and all-enriching water is more useful to Luciel-sama.”

“Who’s the old decrepit. Isn’t you who have lived 3 times longer than I have the old decrepit here?”

While boasting about their own elemental spirits, Dolan and Milfeene snorted roughly as they argued about their usefulness.

“G ... guys, give it a break.”

Said the flustered human and elf half, Crecia.

Crecia could view spirits but she apparently can't speak with them.

“Ha~. Lionel, can you silence those few?”

“Hahaha.”

Lionel only laughed while Cathy who was looking at me until now quickly shifted her sight away.

“Ha~, gather around promptly. Rician and Milfeene, while teaching Crecia about how to converse with the spirits, select the trees that are alright to cut down. Kefin's squad will assist them and tie this string around those trees.”

『Yes!』

“Dolan and Paula, help with the cutting down of the trees. Lionel, Cathy and I included will protect you two. Yarubo's squad, protect Fornoir and the horses and let me know if monsters or adventurers approach from outside.”

『Yes!』

They are already completely my personal squad huh~. While thinking about that, I had them move out to perform their respective tasks.

“There’s quite a fair number of trees alright for cutting down huh.”

“Well then, I shall cut them down with this flame-spewing greatsword bestowed to me by Luciel-sama.”

“Don’t burn them.”

Apparently, in this world, the superhumans can cut down trees without getting their blades stuck in the trees.

While I felt impressed at the sight of the tree gradually inclining and falling down, Cathy snapped off the small tree branches from the fallen tree.

Their figure was amazing after all.

After they finish their tasks, I stored it in my magic bag, forming an assembly line.

Paula also manipulated the golem to fell the trees while Dolan

had converted the mallet he was proud of into a large axe and became a lumberjack.

The logging went very smoothly so we soon past a hundred.

“Dolan, how much logs do we need to make that and for the plans?”

” ... Going by the thickness of these logs, if we have 600 of them combined with the scrap wood from the houses in the slums, we should be able to manage. The Healer’s clinic don’t need any right?”

“Yeah. There’s a reserve of materials there so there’s no problem.”

What I intend to build was 50 units of houses and a school 3 times the size of the Healer’s Guild.

In addition, this time, I’m constructing those without asking for any payment but I’m doing it for a reason.

“Kya~”

Just as I was thinking, I heard a scream.

” ... Advance while being vigilant. Lionel, if there are enemies, I give you permission to clad your sword with flames. Let’s go.”

The 5 of us headed towards the direction of the scream and saw that Kefin and the others had collapsed.

” ... Where’s the enemy?”

” ... I don’t see any nya.”

“I don’t know if it is treants, but I sense a fluctuation in magical power.”

“I see. If that’s the case, stay alert.”

After chanting 「Area High Heal」, I applied 「Recover」 to all members in order and they stood up while shaking or holding their heads.

“So, what happened?”

“We thought that fruits fell from the tree but when we bent down to pick them up ...”

“They were mandrakes. I didn’t have the time to call out to them to stop.”

” ... Well, it’s great that you all are fine.”

Since in fairy tales, it would normally not be strange that they die from that.

“Even so, these should be raw materials for medicine right?”

“Yeah. However, I heard that the preparation method had been lost.”

Since it was the material for medicine like elixirs.

“Well then, please do not perform any careless actions ... Do you all feel like something’s shaking?”

” ... Everyone stay vigilant. We are surrounded by monsters.”

..... So once the victims pass out, monsters would come to kill them.

“Absolutely do not die! As long as you are alive I will definitely heal you.”

I equipped my illusionary cane and shield.

“Rician, Milfeene, and Crecia, use this bow, if you can use it I allow the use of spirit magic.”

『Yes (Understood)!』

“Dolan and Paula, use the golem to stop the momentum of the monsters.”

“”Got it(Yes).””

“Kefin squad, prevent the monsters from approaching Dolan and Paula.”

『Yes!』

“Lionel and Cathy, rampage with your heart’s content.”

“Kakaka. I’m overflowing with fighting spirit from those words.”

“Leave it to me nya.”

The moment I applied 「Area Barrier」, I saw the enemies.

” ... There’s a large number but do your best. I’ll consider giving a bonus if we win so absolutely don’t die.”

The mere material procurement journey had taken an unexpected turn of events but we will absolutely not die, I will not let them die, as I readied my illusionary cane.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

I will continue writing diligently.

Chapter 084: Identity Of The Earth Tremor

Almost instantly, a herd of monsters capable of causing the earth to rumble appeared.

We first caught glimpses of wild animals before catching sight of wolves and the fixture of all fantasy settings, the greenish small humanoids, goblins.

“Forest wolves and goblins, orcs and trolls ... there’s quite a number ... but ...”

As soon as I heard Lionel mutter that, the elves caused a diversion with their bows, reducing the speed of the Forest wolves’ approach as Cathy jumped out.

“I’ll take the troll so I leave the goblins and orcs to you.”

“I’ll stop their momentum.”

Lionel held his large shield and advanced while Paula controlled a 3 meter class golem and entered combat.

“Luciel-sama, please concentrate on applying 「Heal」 remotely. I will crush any monster that approach.”

Said Dolan as he readied his large axe and stood in front of me.

The lives of the goblin and forest wolf monsters scattered every time Cathy passed them by.

With every swing of Lionel's greatsword, the torso of the monsters larger than him slid off, spurting out blood as the body collapsed, burning in bright red flames.

The golem sent the orcs flying with jumping kneepad attacks while, for some reason, without any fans present, touched its left elbow and held its left arm high, signalling with its index and pinkie finger as it ran around excitedly defeating monsters with a lariat, before holding both feet of its opponent and switching to a giant swing. As it mowed down the trees, the advancing enemy's speed was further reduced. (TL: The golem pretty much did all iconic wrestling moves.)

"I'll show you now that I'm more useful than dwarves. 【Spirits who dwell in the trees, accept my call, in exchange for my magic, bind the evil monsters.】

"The forest is the domain of the elves. I will not lose to the dwarf girl. 【Spirits of the wind, in exchange for my magic, become a wind blade that cleaves through the evil monsters.】

"Wah~ the 2 of you are amazing. I'll stick to using arrows."

When Milfeene chanted her spirit magic, the tree roots and branches wrapped around the legs and torso of the monsters, stopping their movements.

Then, Rician's wind blades passed through, mincing up the monsters as Crecia's arrows rapidly struck between the eyebrows and on the monster's torsos.

Within that chaos, there still were monsters that broke through but Kefin and the others properly dealt with them.

I applied purification magic on the forest to remove the heavy stench of blood as I collected the monsters that were the source of the smell.

As I was collecting the monsters, I pondered about the earth tremor.

(There was without a doubt a great number of monsters but isn't it weird that the earth tremor persisted for such a long duration with that number? Unless ...)

Thinking up to that point, I inadvertently looked back and noticed that the number of trees clearly increased.

"Dolan, the surrounding number of trees increased. There's a possibility that they are monsters."

"What? But I can't recognize any."

There's a chance that everyone did not notice treants mix in with the trees during the battle.

However, thinking that calling out to the others would upturn the precious advantageous situation we had now, I rotated my head a full turn and thought of a solution.

“Dolan, hold on to this.”

“Unuu ... I’m grateful.”

Dolan stopped breathing and hesitated for a brief moment before he obediently received it and immediately installed it.

I took out Object X and the sound of the rumbling earth stopped.

“If it’s a treant, I’ll try slashing at it with this illusionary sword. Dolan, protect me with a shield.”

Tying the barrel of Object X onto my body, I transformed the illusionary cane into an illusionary sword and attacked the tree assuming it was a treant.

Channelling magic into the sword, it glowed palely and a red membrane appeared around the outside.

“... Now that I remember, the Flame Dragon said something about gifting me with something like a blessing.”

I murmured as I sliced at the tree in front of my eyes.

The next instant, 『Gugyaaaaaa』, a death throe rang out as pale flames emerged from where I cut and the treant collapsed with a thud.

I felt no resistance from the slash at all.

While thinking about what a cheat-like equipment I was holding on to, I steadily cut down more treants as I stored them into my magic bag.

“What an amazing performance.”

Dolan did not mutter that when he saw me cut down the treants, instead he said that when he saw that the blade could not slice through normal trees when I accidentally slashed them.

Although it so easily sliced through treants, it only left a slight wound on normal trees and could not fell them.

Seeing me apply 「Heal」 on the trees after I accidentally wounded the trees, Dolan closed his eyes and said.

“It is defective as a weapon since it can only destroy monsters but it has unparalleled strength against monsters ... no, if the compatibility is bad as well then ...”

“Dolan come back to reality. We’re still in battle okay.”

Calling out to Dolan who was gradually sucked into the vortex of thought, the elf girls defeated the treants approaching him and confirmed their surroundings before falling to their knees perhaps due to magical power exhaustion.

As usual, Lionel and Cathy trampled on the monsters with a grin on their faces but I felt that the numbers had become considerably less.

“We’ll gather our forces before slowly retreating.”

I told Dolan as I cleansed the route without any monsters and collected the corpses of the monsters.

“It’s about time we retrieve the 2 of them before we return to the outskirts of the forest.”

When I called out to Lionel and Cathy, the 2 of them battled even more wildly and began to forcibly defeat the monsters as if to not let any of the monsters to escape, causing the monsters to gradually fear the 2 of them and flee.

“The 2 of them are definitely a class of their own.”

I muttered as I collected the monsters. After purifying the battleground, I felt the feeling of magical power depletion that I had not felt for a long time and announced that we would be resting outside the forest.

“Luciel-sama, what’s been bothering you from a while ago?”

“I’ve just been thinking about a few things ... Kefin, this forest is undeveloped land right?”

“Yes.”

I asked Milfeene as well but I could not completely collect my thoughts.

“Lionel, did you see any unusual monsters?”

It was the first time I saw goblins and orcs so I could not judge if they were unusual and I asked Lionel.

” ... The trolls and mandrakes usually only appear in forests with dense miasma so if you ask me, those are unusual.”

Touching his beard that had grown a little lately, Lionel answered after a slight pause but as expected, goblins and orcs are common.

“We’ve only delved quite shallow into the forest so the monsters might only be a small number but ... doesn’t this mean that it’s a scam to attract adventurers to this land?”

“I believe it depends on what we say to attract them ... but we

might not be able to earn that much.”

“I think we should confirm with Ienith’s Adventurer’s Guild once we return.”

“I guess that would be a better choice.”

Later, I found out that apparently Kefin and the others entered the Flame Dragon labyrinth to level up and their boss Dollarstar forbade them from entering the undeveloped forest.

Then, I realised that the elves had strange looks on their faces.

“Is something the matter?”

“I feel like I’m somehow being held back.”

“By the ... spirits?”

“No, but for some reason, I feel slightly sad when I try to leave.”

“Same for me as well. This is a first for me.”

The 3 elves said as they looked at the forest.

We directed our gaze at the forest as well but none of us had similar feelings.

” ... There might be something present. However, we should get some rest for now. The magical power of the 3 of you are slightly depleted right?”

Confirming their nods, we began walking and soon exited from the forest.

“After the rest, Kefin squad and Yarubo squad will swap missions. Milfeene and girls please rest until just past noon. Dolan and Paula, help me with the dismantling of the monsters. Lionel and Cathy, I leave the lecturing of Kefin and the others to you.”

Kefin and the others turned pale upon hearing that.

Lionel and Cathy had really fine grins as they headed toward Kefin and the others.

We harvested 102 trees and 9 treants so it could be said to be a sizeable achievement for a duration of 2 hours but ... Dolan dug a hole and retrieved magic stones from the inedible goblins and trolls before tossing them into the hole.

“Looks like there are a lot of magic stones with wind and water attributes and also those that don’t have any attributes.”

“I see. I wanted to do something about the corpses that remained but this is a happy miscalculation.”

“Bonus confirmed.”

Paula looked excitedly at the magic stones and chirped in.

“It does not only belong to you. I am also developing items as well.”

Rician lashed out at Paula so I quickly left the place. Dolan and the 2 of them resumed the dismantling job.

“Isn’t there a bit too many monsters?”

“This is all that is left so there’s no problem.”

“Then I’ll leave it to you.”

“Understood. In exchange, please be generous with the meat.”

“Yeah. Hey~ There’s no better time for it so we’ll be having a barbecue!”

We soaked the meat in hot water once to remove the smell before mixing in spices and grilling them.

The elves could then also eat the meat with that pre-treatment, adding in and grilling the vegetables that we bought, we enjoyed a great barbecue.

After the barbecue meal and rest, my magical power was almost completely recovered.

While preparing to once again enter the forest, I was troubled with letting the 3 elves rest in the carriage or not due to their magical power depletion but it seemed like their magical power also pretty much recovered and they requested to tag along with the search.

“Alright. But don’t push yourselves.”

『Yes!』

Thus, I once again began exploration accompanied by the girls.

This decision resulted in an encounter that would influence Luciel’s life but that is a story of the distant future.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

The end of the year was supposed to be a break but it didn’t happen ...

Chapter 085: Guidance Of The Spirits And Revelations

Returning to the undeveloped forest and resuming our search, we were not caught up in any other events and the procurement of materials proceeded smoothly.

『Zazazudon』 The sound of trees falling echoed into the forest.

“No other monsters appear even with this amount of noise huh. Maybe it was the mandrake’s cry that called the monsters.”

“That might be so.”

Rician reacted to my mutterings and replied.

“How is it? Do you still feel or hear the call that you mentioned before the break?”

“Yeah. However, the range is fairly wide so I can’t pinpoint it.”

I directed my gaze at Milfeene and Crecia but they both shook their heads as well.

“I see. Please continue to select the trees and focus on the voice.”

“Certainly.”

Such conversations went by as our work proceeded. We soon reached the location we had the battle before the break but I began to doubt my eyes due to the sight that was spread across my vision.

” ... There wasn’t these many before right?”

” ... Maybe fairies or spirits are pulling a prank on us.”

“Now’s not the time to say such carefree things nya. It’s safer to leave this place nya.”

Cathy could not hide her surprise at the mandrakes that number above 10.

Seems like their cry is a little painful on beastmen like Cathy.

“Relax Cathy. Mandrakes are vegetables so they can be stored in the magic bag.”

“Nya? Didn’t you mention that living organisms cannot be placed into the magic bag nya?”

“They are a kind of herb after all. Furthermore, if that doesn’t work, I can deploy Sanctuary Circle which would be able to prevent us from falling into a state of panic so it is going to be fine.”

“Luciel-sama sure is working hard nya.”

Like that, just in case, I had them stand down and ordered them to shoulder me and retreat if I lose consciousness.

“Guess I’ll give it a try.”

I concentrated on placing the mandrake into the magic bag.

” ... Too easy.”

The collection of the mandrake ended with a breeze while I was still dumbfounded.

” ... There wasn’t any problem.”

I turned back and told the others but the 3 elves were concentrated on a single point and didn’t reply.

“What’s wrong?”

I followed their line of sight but did not see anything nor feel the presence of anything.

” It’s a fairy.”

“Leshy ... the forest guide ...” (TL: Leshy is a forest spirit in Slavic folklore.)

“It’s the first time I’ve seen one but it sure is large.”

“It’s telling us to follow.”

” ... 《I have confirmed your strength previously, although I think you are crafty in terms of wisdom ... you have to thank your luck for bringing along people who can see my form.》 That’s what it said.”

I looked at Lionel and the others but it indeed could only be seen by the 3 of them.

However, normally it’s unlikely that a fairy would speak to us.

As long as we don’t get caught up in some unique circumstance ... I pondered before telling Rician and the others that we would follow the spirit called Leshy.

” ... This might have been the fairy that called out to you all. However, let’s proceed while being vigilant.”

『Yes!』

We advanced while staying vigilant of the backs of the 3 people that can see the fairy.

“This is too fantasy-like.”

Grass and trees twist and bent their shape, creating a road that was originally not there.

Without encountering any monsters, the sounds of birds and insects gradually disappeared, leaving only the sound of trees swaying in the wind.

“It seems like we’ve arrived.”

“Leshy instructed us to wait for a while before his figure disappeared.”

“Nevertheless, what a beautiful spring.”

The 3 of them were guided to a mysterious and beautiful spring.

If I had a camera with me, I believe I would have definitely clicked the shutter countless times.

If monsters don’t appear, it might a good place to live in.

” ... I have a dangerous feeling about moving around nya.”

“There have been anecdotes that say that forest fairies love to pull pranks and mislead people such that they can’t leave the forest so it’s better to be wary.”

Cathy and Lionel did not release their vigilance of the surroundings.

I nodded and looked at the beautiful and mysterious spring.

A couple of minutes later, the 3 elves headed toward the spring and began kneeling down.

“What’s the matter?”

There was no reply from them but they seemed to be saying something, like there was a soundproof barrier stretched across the area? I totally could not hear anything.

“Would it have been better if I brought along Dolan and Paula as well?”

I asked Lionel and Cathy if it would have been better to bring along Dolan who can hear the voices of spirits.

“Dolan-dono can hear the voice of the earth spirits but he mentioned that he can’t see them so it wouldn’t be much different from us.”

“There might even be compatibility problems if we brought them, causing it to mislead us nya.”

Their judgement on not bringing the dwarf combi was not mistaken ... I thought so.

Looking at the 3 people in a kneeling position, a voice suddenly echoed in my head.

《Human who received the blessing of dragons. It is still too early for you to come here.》

” ... What do you mean?”

The people around me were surprised at my sudden speech but now was not the time to bother about it.

《After some time, you will understand the meaning of it.》

” ... Am I able to come here again?”

《If you are able to come to this forest again I will guide you.》

” ... Able to?”

《As long as you have a strong will to overcome fate, you will be able to come here.》

“That is way too abstract. Please answer properly.”

But there was no reply.

The 3 elves were walking towards us.

“Are you alright?”

” ... Looks like I would not be able to live my life in peace.”

When I said that, Cathy laughed and replied.

“That’s nothing new.”

” ... Well, that’s true up until now.”

As usual, thinking back to all the chaotic environments I’ve been in, I was convinced that it couldn’t be helped that I was wary of it all being a prank and I brushed off my indecision.

“Luciel-sama, if we push onward from here to the back of the forest, there would apparently be an Elf country.”

“However, Spirit-sama said that it was not the time to do so yet.”

Looking at the forest, I was shocked to find out that there would be an Elf country and I was curious about why it was so caught up in saying that it was not time yet.

“And so why is Crecia crying?”

Since just now Crecia did not say a word and had tears flowing.

” ... Spirit-sama taught me that I’m a child that was wished to be born. That I could not be born if a human and elf did not truly love each other.”

She said with a delighted expression. I could guess that half borns were discriminated against.

“I see, that’s great.”

“Yes.”

“And so how do we proceed to the returning path?”

“We can return if we proceed that way but ... there is a settlement of the Hacchi race if we proceed this way and Spirit-sama said that he want us to go this way.”

Hacchi race? Reading my expression, Milfeene began explaining.

“It’s a race that lives by gathering nectar from flowers and trees. Spirit-sama also mentioned that the Hacchi race would be beneficial to Luciel-sama as well.” (TL: It’s basically bee race but they used katakana instead of hiragana.)

... Spirit-sama ... huh. I am curious how far into the future it can peak but if the Hacchi race = bees then my plan would be able to speed forward. There's no way I can miss such an opportunity.

" ... The sun will set soon. If we can return here then we should go back and if it's impossible, split the party and meet up with Kefin and the others. Are you able to return here again?"

Of course, that question was directed at the 3 elves.

" ... I'm sorry but it seems impossible."

Milfeene announced as the representative.

If that's the case then the problem would be the people returning, at least 1 of the 3 elves must return. And the escort ... there's no helping it then.

"Cathy, Yarubo squad, Rician and Crecia, please return."

I retrieved the magic bag from my magic rucksack and passed it to Cathy. (TL: Basically the first magic bag he had while the magic rucksack is the one he got from the Pope.)

"Inside are camping tools including tents. Cathy will be the leader in charge of the camp."

"Muu~ I wanted to go together with you nya~"

“Dividing the 2 with high ability in this party, Lionel, and Cathy, would raise the probability of both side living, so give it up.”

“I understand nya.”

“Everyone please proceed to prepare for camp and if we do not return by noon tomorrow, please return to the city first and come up with a plan.”

『Yes!』

Thus, with only me, Lionel, and Milfeene left, Cathy and the others departed towards the outside of the forest.

“Well then, why exactly must we go to the Hacchi race village?”

“Indeed. What did the spirit tell you?”

Lionel lined up his sword at Milfeene. Even though she was currently under a slave contract, she was only ordered to not cause harm or detriment to me and those related to the church.

Which was why it was possible for her to lie.

It was great that I realised the lie this time by looking at Crecia's expression but I thought that it was better to think of a solution for a situation where Lionel and Cathy were not around.

“Lionel ... it’s alright to not point your sword. Milfeene, please tell me.”

Milfeene was stiff with a contemplative expression on her face for a while before she started speaking.

” ... So our lie was exposed. The truth is, Spirit-sama said that lately the miasma around the Hacchi race settlements have thickened and at this rate, they would be annihilated within a few days. He also said that if it was Luciel-sama, he could save them.”

“That’s why you lied huh ... Ha~ ... there’ll be punishment later. ... Lionel, why are your eyes shining like that?”

“Because it seems like strong foes would appear due to the miasma.”

“Don’t plant a flag. After we purify the miasma and interact with them, we’ll quickly return. Milfeene will lead the way.”

Unlike before, Lionel perceived that there might be a battle with strong monsters so he was selfishly getting carried away.

Thinking that monsters would not appear if I purify the miasma, I agreed to Milfeene’s proposal.

” ... Thank you Luciel-sama.”

After performing a deep bow, Milfeene gallantly began walking in the lead.

While maintaining vigilance on the surroundings, Lionel and I followed Milfeene's guidance and advanced into the forest.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 086: Saving The Hacchi Race Covered By Miasma

“Seems like they are in quite a pinch.”

“Luciel-sama now’s not the time to be in such a carefree mood.”

Milfeene shot an amazingly terrifying look at me and I began applying purification.

“Erm, yes. I’ll start purifying then. Lionel, I’ll leave the lookout to you.”

“Understood.”

We’ve reached the Hacchi tribe’s settlement that was at a distance of about 10 minutes away from the location we parted with Cathy and the others.

... With multiple large beehives hanging down from the trees, it was undoubtedly the Hacchi tribe’s settlement.

However, there were no signs of the Hacchi tribe. A thick layer of miasma to the extent that it was visible to the naked eye covered our surroundings so I applied purification.

The thick purple miasma was gradually purified by the magic spell.

“If we don’t do something about the principle cause of the miasma, there is a high chance that Luciel-sama’s magical power would be depleted.” Lionel shared his concerns about me.

I was aware of that as well but I could not identify the location of the cause of this.

“Milfeene, could you ask the fairies or spirits if they know the source of where this miasma is generated from?”

Milfeene shook her head and answered.

“Fairies and spirits would not approach a place with such strong miasma like this.”

Milfeene answered but I noticed that she was looking pale from the strong miasma so I passed her my robe.

“I see ... I’m a bit late at passing this to you but wear this robe for now.”

“Thank you.”

As Milfeene put on the robe, I gave out orders.

“Lionel, please protect me. Milfeene, call out to the Hacchi tribe and if any of them come out, gather information from them.”

At my command, Lionel answered with a smile while Milfeene replied with a bow.

“As usual right.”

“Understood. If I come across any information I’ll return here immediately.”

I applied purification magic on the Hacchi tribe’s hive.

Initially, I speculated that the miasma came from below and floated upward like vapour but squatting down, I did not see any traces of mist from the miasma.

The remaining choices were from the trees or the air so I walked toward where the miasma was concentrated as I continued purifying ... “Ha!” I suddenly heard Lionel’s voice accompanied by the swing of his greatsword.

“What’s ... wrong? What is this monster?”

“Well then, seems like it’s going to get fun.”

Lionel readied his large shield and greatsword, indicating to me that there would be further battles.

The monster that Lionel cut down earlier was a dog-sized fly that

was a half-decomposed undead monster with a greenish appearance.

“The only person having fun here is you, Lionel. Here they come.”

Immediately after I set up an Area Barrier, similar monsters flew at us and I released purification magic at that direction, revealing an extremely large slime that seemed to give birth to various monsters.

” ... Slimes should be much cuter though? That is clearly a boss-class. Lionel, do your best to defend against it.”

“You don’t have to panic, I’ll defeat them all. The opponents may be undead but it is a fairly worthy battlefield. I, Lionel, am Luciel-sama’s shield.”

So he’s saying he definitely wants to be pushed forward.

It’s good that Cathy and the others weren’t around to tsukkomi him...

“I’ll be targeted when I’m applying purification so I’ll leave them to you.”

Chanting at the created monsters, I released countless purification magic that killed the undead, leaving only their body.

Thanks to the purification magic, the slime that formed many monsters would gradually grow smaller ... wait it doesn't?

“Hey hey, by theory shouldn't that thing become smaller?”

The extremely large slime produced miasma and by sucking in that miasma as if sucking in air, it began performing something like photosynthesis and I felt it was gradually becoming bigger.

The monsters were increasing and Lionel was cutting them down happily but if this battle continued like this, my magical power would be depleted.

“Lionel, I leave all the monsters to you.”

Without listening for Lionel's reply, I channelled magical power into the illusionary cane and began chanting.

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, by my wish use my magical power as sustenance, like wings of light, using a shield of purification, create a sanctuary that sears everything wicked and impure. Sanctuary Circle.】

As soon as the magic circle appeared around the extremely large slime, the monsters all jumped towards me all together but I trust that Lionel would not let enemies approach me.

Even in the off-chance he gets bitten, I told him that I would be able to regenerate any lost flesh so I activated the 「Sanctuary Circle」. The bluish white glow from the slime was joined with a red spiral and the slime was completely defeated.

“High Heal.”

I immediately used chant termination to apply healing magic on Lionel and cast purification magic on the remaining monsters.

Lionel did not let a single monster pass him but in exchange, he had wounds all over his body.

“You seriously overdid it. 「Recover」, 「Dispel」, 「Extra Heal」.

“Kukuku. I’m grateful. I was overflowing with quite a bit of fighting spirit.”

Lionel had a sharp laceration beside one eye and his body was discoloured by the effects of petrification and poison status afflictions.

Thankfully my healing magic could treat his body’s wounds and abnormal status.

“I’m thankful that you did not let any monsters by but I would be seriously troubled if Lionel died so absolutely don’t die.”

“Oo. I’ve exhausted my retainer luck.”

“Ha~ you’re definitely not reflecting on your actions.”

Lionel had a grin as he continued looking toward the location where the slime was.

“The number of monster corpses is amazing. The miasma ...”

“The miasma have gradually thinned as well.”

The origin of the miasma was that slime after all.

“Yeah. And so, that slime ... but I don’t think it’s a slime?”

“What a coincidence. I feel that way too.”

Reluctantly, I retrieved the mountain of undead monsters into my magic bag and applied purification magic at places where the miasma was still thick before getting down to business.

” ... 「Purification」 「Dispel」 「Recover」 「High Heal」.”

Something tumbled in front of my eyes ... a 50cm tall girl(?) with a bee-like appearance collapsed and I cast healing magic on her.

『Queen-sama~』

Then, a group of bees came rushing over.

Within them an elderly(?) bee with a beard holding a spear called out to me.

“Philosopher-sama~ Is Queen-sama, is Queen-sama alright?”

“Erm yes. This individual is alive. Rather, what do you mean by Philosopher-sama?”

“Everyone, our Queen-sama is alright. Let’s immediately carry Queen-sama to the hive. Philosopher-sama, please allow us to move Queen-sama first.”

“Ye ... yes, go ahead.”

“Thank you.”

Small bee-like individuals about 20cm in height carefully carried the queen in their arms and flew toward the direction of the beehive together.

“So Luciel-sama is alright ... I’m sorry.”

Milfeene came over and fell to her knees and bowed after confirming our condition.

Right. For some reason, she began with a dogeza.

“And? Why did you suddenly prostrate on the ground?”

” ... Because I did something unforgivable. I currently do not possess the slave crest.”

There’s no slave crest?

“Spirit-sama removed my slave crest and asked me to save this village.”

Aren’t this world’s dragons and spirits too egocentric?

” And what’s the compensation?”

Accepting to do this should come with some compensation. But if she had malicious intent then Lionel and Cathy would have noticed.

“This spirit amulet. He wanted me to pass this to Luciel-sama when you have saved the Hacchi tribe.”

So it’s that kind of development? Milfeene passed me the amulet while remaining in her seiza position and once again bowed down after that.

” ... Milfeene, you can decide if you want to be independent or return to being a slave. If you return to being a slave I would give you punishment so think about it well. And so, you’re listening anyway right, spirit?”

《Forgive that girl. I can only dispel the slave crest of those with strong faith in me.》

He was listening as expected. I looked at the sky and spoke.

“If that’s the case, then you could have spoken to me directly.”

《If I did that then you would have headed over with large numbers. If you did that then your companions would have fallen into confusion and cut each other.》

Even so, he could have said something. I wanted to say that but ... he did have a point. Regardless of how many companions I bring along, even Lionel received such extensive wounds.

” ... And so, what is this amulet?”

After I asked that, a mechanical voice echoed in my brain.

《Obtained the blessing of the water spirit》

Even here huh. There are blessings to be acquired here as well

huh.

” ... What is the blessing of the water spirit?”

《You will understand when you obtain the water dragon’s blessing.》

I heard an amused voice from somewhere.

” ... This amulet is?”

《Something that allows you to traverse this forest without getting lost. Don’t lose it.》

” ... When do I return here?”

《I can’t answer that. However, you will face despair. If you have the strong determination to stand up after that, you will be able to visit this place once again.》

Despair? What does he mean by standing up after that? I was uneasy with the vague words used by the spirit.

“What do you mean by despair! Hey, hey!”

However, no matter how many times I called out the spirit never replied.

“Luciel-sama, whether if we are going to the Hacchi tribe settlement or returning, we need to hurry or the sun will set.”

Lionel warned me.

” ... Yeah. Milfeene, what do you want.”

“Please allow me to return to being a slave.”

“Ha~ why is everyone so particular with being a slave.”

“A slave for Luciel-sama does not have to live like a typical slave and sometimes it is easier to move with the identity of a slave.”

A smile floated on Lionel’s face as he told me.

“She’s no longer lying.”

“Yes.”

I breathed a sigh looking at Milfeene rejoice at becoming a slave.

Then, while considering the contents of the negotiation with the Hacchi tribe later, I began walking toward the settlement.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

I secretly released the 2nd chapter.

Chapter 087: Negotiations With The Hacchi Race And The Legend Of The Philosopher

Reaching the Hacchi tribe's settlement, unlike when miasma was drifting about, we now saw the Hacchi tribe people coming out.

"I guess such strong miasma was considerably poisonous."

Upon muttering that, a number of the Hacchi tribe flew over and replied with smiles on their faces.

"Philosopher-sama, thank you for saving Queen-sama and the village."

"If Philosopher-sama wasn't around, I can't fathom what would have happened to our village."

"Philosopher-sama is our saviour."

I was told such things but I wondered why they thought I was a philosopher so I asked them for the reason.

"It's good that I was able to rescue you all. By the way, why do you all think that I am a philosopher?"

They replied with a mysterious look on their faces.

“In the legends, Philosopher-sama gallantly appears when miasma spreads through the forest and drives away the miasma by releasing bluish white light.”

“When the forest was once again covered in miasma, I was told that the 2nd and 3rd philosopher would appear.”

“Releasing bluish white light like in the legends, clearing the miasma, are you not Philosopher-sama?”

... So it's completely the fault of Philosopher-san. What 2nd and 3rd philosopher. Is this some stage performance ...

” ... Unfortunately, I am a healer in training. This time, I came to negotiate with the Hacchi tribe but without Queen-sama it can't be done right?”

“Eh? If that's the case, I'll bring Haniru-sama over.”

One of the Hacchi tribe individuals flew into a beehive above in the sky.

“Nevertheless, why was Queen-sama caught? And why did you all not flee from the forest?”

“There's no way we can leave Queen-sama behind and run!”

A youth(?) raised his voice and began endlessly talking about how

amazing the queen is.

“Please end it there.”

A dignified voice resounded and the queen, the elder from before, and a slightly larger youth appeared.

Immediately, the Hacchi tribe members in front of my eyes smoothly opened a path.

“Philosopher-sama, thank you for saving me and the village.”

The bowing queen had wings clad in magical power different from the other Hacchi tribe members, with the wing emitting a faint light.

“It is an unexpected development but I am glad to be able to save you all.”

“And I heard you wish to negotiate?”

“Yeah. My deduction may be wrong but I believe you all are able to create honey.”

” ... Yeah. You are right.”

I’ll first properly explain to them my desire.

“My plan is to ...”

I talked about my plan. And asked that they somehow cooperate.

” ... I see. However, even if it is Philosopher-sama who saved the village, I cannot give you an immediate answer.”

“I guess so.”

It was a difficult proposal so I did not expect an instant approval.

” ... Which is why, please guide my son Haniru and a couple others to Ienith.”

“What do you mean?”

“If we can be convinced that your word is completely trustworthy, I wish to be in your care as well.”

“Thank you.”

A smile naturally spilled from my expression at their unexpected offer to dispatch members to confirm the situation. I thought there was a need to conduct multiple negotiations so this was a really significant step.

“Nevertheless, Philosopher-sama sure thinks of interesting things.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. I imagined that the human race was a lot more arrogant so I was surprised.”

I could easily imagine that something happened between them and humans in the past. I felt that I had to investigate the Hacchi tribe’s history ... it was kind of an intuition.

“And so why did Queen-sama turn into that slime? Or why were you captured by it?”

” ... About half a month ago during dawn, something was thrown into the forest when a flying dragon flew over. The youths from the village saw that and went to investigate, discovering a broken bottle containing that slime which had begun emitting miasma.”

Half a month ago ... about the time we went to the labyrinth huh ...

“All physical attacks against that slime were completely ineffective and because we have never seen a nucleus of that colour before, I, the only person who can use magic, attacked it with wind attribute magic but the slime suddenly leaped toward me ... I have no recollection of any events after that.”

The Hacchi tribe elder continued the story.

“We tried using fire to attack it and save Queen-sama but the slime used Queen-sama as a shield and we could not attack at all.”

An intelligent slime? Or was it defensive instinct? I looked toward Lionel but he was listening seriously and unusually did not notice my gaze.

“Gradually the slime became larger and that miasma attracted monsters which it began absorbing. Since yesterday, it began giving birth to undead monsters and we could only ask for help from the Spirit-sama of legends.”

Praying to spirits instead of praying to gods huh.

Looks like the faith in spirits in this world is considerably strong as well.

Rather, if the Philosopher is a reincarnated individual as well, the Philosopher's words ... it would be better to read his biography as well.

Ah, I should pay attention to the conversation.

“And so, like in the legends we arrived ... so that was the situation. Nevertheless, it's a good thing that Queen-sama didn't dissolve.”

“It was thanks to this.”

Queen-sama said and showed me an amulet that I saw somewhere before.

” ... That is?

“The amulet of the water spirit. It is an amulet that is passed down to successive generations of queens.”

The queen caringly stroked the amulet and pasted it on her body.

Looking at the amulet gradually disappear, I realised that I was completely manipulated by the spirit this time.

” ... I see.”

I couldn't help but reply with a monotonous reply.

Seems like this time, the water spirit wanted to save the kin that was devoted to it.

... However, if that slime was left alone, it would have surely become larger and there would be a high possibility of this forest and Ienith falling into a dangerous crisis ... thinking about it that way, maybe it was good that I was manipulated by the spirit this time.

It was smoothly defeated during its early stages but if it had reached the stage of covering the forest with miasma, my plan of attracting adventurers would have been all for naught.

Moreover, because I saved the Hacchi tribe this time, I had the chance to contact them so I guess it is good fortune.

That's right. There's no use thinking about it negatively for these kind of situations.

I'll consider this as ... the guidance of Great Luck-sensei.

I felt slightly more at ease thinking about it.

“Would you be staying for the day?”

The queen said that but looking up and imagining how I would sleep, I could not muster the courage to stay.

“Even though you offered, my companions are waiting so I will have to reject your offer this time.”

I rejected with a smile.

“I see. Then please take this gift.”

The queen turned around and passed me a barrel that looked like it could fit 30 litres, filled with crystal-like yellow globes.

“Housed in this barrel is honey. If you place this honey globe into a container about the same size as this barrel filled with water, after one night it would become mead so I hope you would enjoy it.”

Seems like there are various methods to make alcohol in this world.

“I will gladly accept it. Would it be alright if I call for Hanirudono and his retinue at a later date?”

“No, we will be accompanying you.”

“Is that alright?”

“Yes. Since it is a great chance to see the outside world.”

I guess they have already anticipated various patterns after listening to the negotiation. Seems like they have said their farewells as well.

“Understood. I will take care of your son and his retinue. We will regularly return to this forest so I promise to bring them along every time.”

“Thank you.”

Thus, we left the Hacchi tribe’s settlement.

“So it was actually so near?”

After walking for less than 10 minutes from the Hacchi tribe’s settlement, we exited the forest and saw everyone.

“Preparation for dinner will be complete soon nya.”

Lionel made eye contact and Cathy immediately tried to pull my hand but I stopped her and decided to introduce the Hacchi tribe members and my squad.

“Please think of them as delegations of the Hacchi tribe. They will play a crucial role in my plans so I hope you all firmly protect them as well. Haniru-dono and retinue, these are my slaves but also my subordinates. We will be in your care.”

After that, dinner was already prepared after all so by the time we all had our fill, the evening sun was already sinking across the horizon.

“It will quickly drop into total darkness so everyone proceed with caution.”

『Yes!』

To be safe, I applied 「Area Barrier」 on everyone before we began setting off.

The attached light on the carriage lighted up the road, allowing us to easily spot far away enemies. It was a magic tool that I had Paula make but its usefulness was immediately achieved.

There was the risk of having our position known to enemies but it was constructed so that we would not be caught paralyzed by sudden ambushes.

“Seems like they are only monitoring us from a distance.”

“I see.”

Through the reports, I knew that there were opposition factions and understood that they might prey on us when we were outside the city.

In the reports from Dollarstar, he advised that there were people who were not amused by the fact that I did not act obediently as Ienith's representative.

“They are of the Centaur (horse beastmen) race while at that side are monsters nya.”

“I pray that there isn't going to be a raid.”

“Today should be a wait-and-see situation. From tomorrow onward there might be attacks.”

“Everyone, just don’t die instantly.”

Thus while thinking that today they were only confirming the hostile forces and that it might get rough from tomorrow onward, I was glad that we returned safely to Ienith.

Chapter 088: Luciel's Underground

Domestic Affairs Plan

After arriving at Ienith, we returned to the Healer's Guild.

On the way back, Kefin and the others directed the way to Dollarstar-san's place and we shared our progress status and exchanged information.

"We're back. Did anything out of the ordinary happen?"

Jordo-san shook his head and as I checked their progress, I asked Lionel to stay behind and told the others that they were free to spend their time.

Yarubo squad headed for the underground 4th floor while Dolan, Paula, and Rician headed for the underground 3rd floor.

Cathy, Milfeene and Crecia headed for the canteen.

Me, Lionel and Haniru's group moved to the underground 1st floor.

"This is the basement. I plan to make it similar to how it is here."

The impact was so great that they, the retinue with Haniru-san included, stood there dumbfounded with their mouths agape.

“I was surprised as well when I saw it for the first time. I could not imagine that there would be an empty space underground.

” ... Unbelievable. The air here is clean and if the number of trees is increased, I feel it can be comparable to a forest.”

The retinue all nodded their heads as well.

“I have given an explanation along the way to this Healer’s Guild but this is my dwelling. It is intended such that we would have no trouble accommodating people no matter the number.”

“Seriously amazing. However, how do you intend to sell it?”

“I have already received approval for that. However, I have no idea what the other party thinks about it though ...”

I smiled and slowly advanced my plan.

“I intend to invite the bear beastmen who are knowledgeable about plants into this plan but I do not know the Hacchi tribe well enough so I only intend to do so if you have no problem with it.”

The honey-loving bear beastmen would definitely get on board with the plan if I invited them.

However, the Hacchi tribe is indispensable in this plan so it was

difficult to draw the line.

“There are no problems. However, wouldn't it be too confined with this amount of area?”

“Yes. Construction has already begun. I plan to have the depth to be about similar to the underground 3rd floor here and convert the whole slum district into a pseudo-space to plant flower gardens and fruit-bearing trees.”

That was not the only thought in my head.

I've examined a botanical illustration book but plants like sugar beet or sugarcane does not exist.

The Elimasia Empire and the Rubruk Kingdom are the only 2 countries that export sugar but all information about the manufacturing method and the ingredient have been completely shut out.

Currently, Ienith was growing spices and medicinal herbs.

I won't say that it is bad and I hope that they continue.

My intent when I thought of the new business plan was to aid the weak.

Of course, I do not intend to offer this opportunity for free.

That's right, it must come with a pledge. (TL: I'm starting to think that what he means by pledges are the written agreements people sign to seal business deals ... not sure yet, but it fits his salaryman background. The kanji can also be translated as written oath.)

Anybody who talks about it, writes anything regarding it, finds any means to transmit the information, or takes any illegal actions would be forcibly severed from the plan.

Moreover, I specified that the person who reveals it will be forced to drink Object X.

Even in the case that it was threatened out of them, they would also be severed from the plan but they would not be forced to drink Object X.

“So the underground is to be constructed into an orchard and flower garden to allow us to create honey. I see, it looks like it would be interesting, for thoughts about the distribution of profits to only be considered later on.”

I was confident that Haniru-dono was greatly interested.

While chiming in to show I was paying attention, I was thinking that the person who holds the right to make the decision was the queen but, currently the person-in-charge was Haniru-dono so I pitched my closing sales pitch. (TL: Pretty much a sales pitch to sway buyers on the fence to actually decide to buy, usually by

asking a question like “How would you like to pay, credit card or cash?” so that they instinctively think that they want to buy it. Or that is what I got from reading up online.)

“So if it is up to Haniru-dono, when would you be able to start?”

“Hmm. The beginning would be a testing stage so would it be alright if I plant the few flower seeds that we brought along?”

Haniru-dono had an eager personality, more so that I had imagined.

If this works out well, all that remain would be some minor fine tuning.

“Yes. We have the elves that are familiar with plants and dwarves that are knowledgeable about soil so leave the management to us.”

The truth be told, it was not like I did not have any concerns. This time, I learnt that there are irregular existences like the Spirit as well as the ability to dispel slave contracts.

Even if they agree to work with me here, I feel that I have to enforce a slightly stronger oath.

I plan to assign the elf girls to this city.

Once the field is set I would not need them anymore and the Pope

also told me that it's alright to release them from slavery and hire them for the Healer's Guild when I go on a journey.

Well, I intend to leave that decision up to the 3 of them.

"... Now that you mentioned it, why are those forest people ... the elves, slaves to Philosopher-sama?"

"A certain slave dealer fled and the Healer's Guild took them in when they were on the verge of dying. They told me that they would prefer to remain as slaves so they maintained their status. I believe their desire to remain as slaves may be due to the good treatment or because I am their saviour, but I intend to release them whenever they wish for it."

I looked at Lionel but he lightly smiled as usual.

"I see. Then why did you not allow the elf slaves to fight?"

Haniru-dono asked with a serious look but I did not have a clear answer.

"... Hmm~ That's a difficult question to answer but I decided that they would be in the way during combat. I do not wish to fight alongside those that I do not trust. Lionel here is one that I already trust to the extent of offering to dispel his slave contract. Though, he always refuses it."

"But I thought it would be harsh on a human to be a slave?"

He made it sound like there exist certain criteria to handle human slaves.

I answered honestly with a smile.

“Basically, I do not understand the way to handle slaves. There was no guide to slavery and I do not comprehend the talks about slaves getting complacent if they are given bed and food.”

” ... I see.”

“I do not bother to save criminal slaves but I believe that nobody wants to become a slave. If fate brings me to slaves, I prefer to see faces with expressions showing that they are trying their best compared to faces with looks of despair. Although Lionel always say that I am too naive.”

If I set off for a journey at this moment, I believe I would only bring along Lionel and Cathy.

Everything left unattended here should be fine with Jordo-san around and if they refuse then I can always forcefully dispel the slave contract.

Of course, I'll pay them but what comes next would be entirely up to themselves.

“You really resemble Philosopher-sama in the story.”

Haniru said as he laughed.

After briefly explaining the underground to them, I invited them to the guildmaster’s room to discuss the plan’s schedule, the seeds of the flowers and fruits to plant and the selection of the fruit trees present in the forest.

“Milfeene, are you aware that you could have been killed by Luciel-sama and Lionel-sama?”

Cathy spoke to Milfeene and Crecia.

“There’s no way I’d be killed ... Spirit-sama revealed that it was all for the sake of Luciel-sama.”

She looked at Milfeene with a chilling gaze ... and shifted her gaze to Crecia.

“Hiii, wha, what is it?”

“Why didn’t you say that you lied? Rician who is not here is also guilty as well.”

Crecia immediately began speaking from the fear.

“Because we were told that it as for Luciel-sama’s sake.”

“By the Spirit?”

“Yes. Moreover, he said that Luciel-sama would be able to easily command the situation.”

“Lionel-sama was hurt to such a serious extent. Like hell it was easy!”

Cathy was angry with herself all the way.

And regretted the fact that it would have been better if she headed to the Hacchi tribe’s settlement as well then.

The faith in Spirits is thin within cat beastmen like Cathy.

Cathy carefully observed Crecia but she did not see any signs that she lied.

However, she intuitively knew that Milfeene was still hiding something.

“Milfeene, the current you is not a slave right? Why did you become Luciel-sama’s slave? With you capabilities, you can sufficiently earn a living as an adventurer.”

Milfeene's expression did not reveal anything under Cathy's questioning as she answered with a single sentence.

"... I cannot say."

Cathy directed a sharp gaze at Milfeene and further questioned.

"Is that also influenced by the Spirit?"

"..... I cannot say."

Cathy noticed the look of resolve on Milfeene's face when she raised her head.

Which was why Cathy gave a warning.

"Is it family? Or a revelation from the Spirit? ... So it's the revelation from the Spirit ... huh. That's good. If you undertook the actions this time due to your family being held hostage or something, I would have killed you. But there will not be a second time."

Cathy said before leaving the canteen.

"Was Cathy-san always such a frightening person?"

Receiving the gaze different from the usual friendly and

absentminded Cathy, Crecia was trembling but Milfeene was quivering even more.

The content of the revelation to Milfeene from the Water Spirit was to facilitate the chance meeting between Luciel and the girl holding the title of Dragon God Priestess and the blessing of the Spirit King.

Milfeene, who was told by the Spirit that it was unnecessary to speak to others about it, was on the verge of crying but she could only search for the girl who possesses the Spirit King's Blessing.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 089: Relationship Between Honey And The Bear Beastmen

The next day, I passed my magic stones to Dolan and Paula and asked them to continue digging the underground 3rd floor.

“I wish to make an entrance from the other side as well but I have not received their pledge so I can’t do that yet. Please clean up the compartments while I discuss with Haniru-dono here.”

“Understood. I’ll continue digging.”

“I’ll compact the walls.”

I’ve forgotten that the 2 of them usually do not speak much. Then, I noticed the 3 elves.

“Crecia, Rician, Milfeene, listen to Haniru-dono’s opinion, discuss about where and what type of seeds to sow and write them down on a piece of parchment for me to see later.”

『Yes.』

This morning, the 3 of them pledged to me.

With that, I can bind them to a certain extent but if it is hopeless then it can’t be helped, I would just not involve myself with them if that happens again so I don’t really mind it.

This time, the pledge established joint responsibility.

If any of them commit something, all 3 of them will be sold as slaves together.

There's a chance that they would immediately return even if their slave contracts are dispelled and if they lose their memories about meeting us, if spirits are involved then there's a chance they will be returned to us as well.

Ability-wise, I believe they are necessary personnel for the orchard, honey, and mead distillery.

Last night, while talking about the spirits and the elves' special characteristics with Lionel and Cathy, I decided on how to handle them.

Cathy told me that she confirmed the situation about their slave status with Rician and was told that only people with strong faith in spirits can dispel the slave contract.

“When I firmly had a talk with them, they properly told me nya~”

She said with a smile but her eyes weren't laughing.

It's definitely because Lionel got hurt ... but isn't she over

thinking it?

Going by that criteria, Milfeene is an elf of age above 200 so I guess her faith would be considerably strong.

Humans worship the Chief God Kuraiya to use magic and similarly they beseech spirits to use spirit magic so their devotion should be strong to a large extent as well.

They gave priority to the revelation from the spirit that nears godhood which they always had faith in compared to me who only became their master for 10 days.

I guess that can't be helped.

Surely if Cathy was ordered by Lionel as well, a similar situation would occur and I can easily imagine who she would prioritize between me and Lionel.

Well, since the situation changes depending on whether she is convinced or if I sense something, the situations will never be equal ...

Even though I thought I no longer need to think about these things after coming to this world ...

It's a secret that I felt nostalgia toward my life in Meratoni when I was thinking about this.

The next morning, when I told the 3 of them, Crecia looked like she was about to cry, Rician glared at Milfeene and Milfeene apologized with a deep bow.

I told the 3 of them that this was coercion and as of now they can still discard the slave contract but the 3 of them still rejected.

Thus, I now had 3 people with slave crests that would automatically dispel if they conduct any harmful activities against me, my plan or the Healer's Guild.

Once a day, Cathy and Naria would be in-charge of checking their slave crest and I stopped devoting time to this matter.

“Naria, please continue to teach the slaves literacy and general knowledge.”

“Yes.”

Naria asked “How about Luciel-sama joined as well?” but I don't have such time.

“Kefin squad will patrol around the guild's perimeters while Yarubo squad and Baderu squad, I ask that you flush out the opposition without overexerting yourselves.”

『Yes!』

That was a really good answer.

While praying from my heart that they can successfully rehabilitate, I called out to Lionel and Cathy and departed.

“Lionel, Cathy, we’ll first go visit the bear beastmen.”

『Yes!』

After calling out to Jordo-san, we left the Healer’s Guild.

Although we came to meet with the bear beastmen, there were a number of tiger beastmen present as well.

“Good morning.”

Seeming as if they did not notice me, the tiger beastmen gave a surprised nod and left as if they were running away.

“I wonder what that was about?”

“That’s a slightly disturbing sign.”

“Today is Yarubo squad’s turn to keep track of them so it’s fine nya.”

Lionel showed that he was thinking while beside him Cathy answered with a laugh.

“Did you notice something?”

“When I investigated the centaur tribe slightly, I found that the tiger beastmen are involved nya.”

Since that was investigated within the span of yesterday, Cathy is outrageously talented after all.

” ... Please report something like that as well.”

Cathy laughed and averted her gaze.

I was somehow healed by that comical action.

” ... I’ll keep that in mind nya.”

“Ha~. Well then, let’s ask what the tiger beastmen came here for and begin the negotiations.”

I knocked on the house that the tiger beastmen were in and the door was banged opened with an amazing momentum that was then stopped by Lionel.

“As I ... ugh!?”

There was a bang and this time, the sound of something hard hitting the door was heard, before Lionel slowly opened the door, greeted by the sight of a bear beastman holding onto his head.

“Are you Brian-dono?”

It was hard to distinguish between them.

While taking note of a surprising side of Lionel, I applied 「Heal」 and 「Recover」.

The recovered Brian-dono woke up and gave an embarrassed look when he noticed us and invited us into the house.

“Were you in the middle of something?”

” ... Our tribe is small in numbers so we have various things to do.”

Brian-dono smiled weakly.

“I see. If it’s alright with you, maybe you can give me your trust and confide in me?”

” ... I am aware that Luciel-dono is currently the representative for Ienith. However, this is a problem between tribes so please understand.”

Does he not realize that by saying so he had already completely revealed their relations with the tiger beastmen?

“I see. Then I’ll return for today.”

I smiled and said to Brian-dono.

” ... Was there something you wished to talk about?”

“There was, but without an established relationship of trust, the talk about hone ... the talk can’t be done without trust.”

I once again smiled and stood up, but Brian-dono’s flustered voice resounded across the house.

“Ho, hone, you mean it’s a talk about honey?”

“Shh~. This is a confidential talk, we can talk about it after we further strengthen our relationship of trust.”

I stopped him with an index finger placed in front of my nose before I checked left and right and said with a soft voice.

“What is it about?”

“Hmm.”

While pretending to be worried, I took out a small 100ml bottle and stopped right before I passed it to Brian-dono.

“This is honey. If you feel like trusting me, please come visit the Healer’s Guild.”

After saying that, this time, I handed it over to Brian-dono.

Brian-dono trembled as he took the lid off the bottle, dripped the honey on his hand and licked.

Brian-dono who began trembling violently made sure to cap the bottle before flying out of the door.

The next moment, with light emitting out of his body accompanied by a 『Bofun』 sound, Brian-dono became giant.

Then, “Kuma!”, he gave out an amazing roar.

” ... Doesn’t he seem larger compared to before?”

“So there are various types of beastmen as well huh ...”

“I was surprised nya~!?”

While listening to the surprised remarks from the original two, I

thought “Wouldn’t this make it obvious that he just ate honey?” but decided to give him a warning after his giant form ends.

About 5 minutes later, the wolf beastmen and dragonewt guards came to investigate but they were convinced by my explanation that I gave him some leftover honey and left.

That caused me to facepalm as it indicated that this happened every time.

His body returned back to his small size 30 minutes after his transformation.

Now stood Brian-dono who had finally returned to his original ... or a size smaller than before due to the fact that he was prostrating on the ground.

By the way, it seems like the person who spread the usage of dogeza was Philosopher-sama so I’ve already concluded that Philosopher-sama was a reincarnated individual as well as a Japanese.

“I did not expect such a transformation due to the honey but I am not angry as well so please raise your head.”

“What are you saying. That was the first time I’ve ever tasted honey that is of such high quality, with not one bit of impurities ... or rather, with such condensed magical power. If one is a bear beastmen, it is natural to pledge allegiance.”

So that honey was of finest quality huh...

It was great that I helped the bee tribe.

After such exchanges, when I asked about the previous tiger beastmen, he began speaking unreservedly.

“Ienith has a total of 10 beastmen races but there originally was 14 races.”

“What were the 4 races?”

“Cow beastmen, horse beastmen, monkey beastmen and elephant beastmen. They were expelled from Ienith due to various reasons.”

” ... When I first heard of this country, I heard that there were individuals who do not want to bind themselves to this city as well as races that want to flaunt their territories in the wide Ienith land?”

Brian-dono shook his head and spoke.

“They were driven out due to the race having too few numbers or from repeated battles. Nobody wants to make a village or settlement where monsters roam about freely.”

” ... Then, the tiger beastmen that were previously here?”

“We were told to not cooperate with Luciel-dono, wholesale herbs to the Herbalist Guild as we have done up until now, and to not let this be known to the other races.”

“And if the secret is out?”

“We would most likely be harassed by the centaurs.”

Including Shaza, they are seriously without hope.

Unlike the dragonewt tribe, they do not have any deviousness. Ah, let's go visit the Adventurer's Guild after this.

“I understand. I will send a subordinate tomorrow night, follow that person and come to the Healer's Guild. I'll have you all pledge once there but I do not intend to do anything detrimental to the bear beastmen.”

“Luciel-dono, no, Luciel-sama, please take care of the bear beastmen.”

I guess he had been under enormous pressure.

Brian-dono once again said with a deep bow.

“Let us both work hard together.”

We were seen off by Brian-dono as we headed for the Adventurer's Guild.

“What do you mean?”

“There's no problem with Brian-dono, but they are without a doubt rough. Once they have a taste of power they would not be able to let it go.”

Lionel said with a heavy nod.

“There's a chance that you might need to condemn them nya.”

Cathy was grinning but today I somehow felt that her mood was bad.

” ... Please give me a break from that ... There's a high risk that they would topple the power balance.”

“If it is similar to what happened to the original Adventurer's Labyrinth Nation's capital Grandol, it is just a question of sooner or later.”

“Luciel-sama just do what you plan to do nya. Lionel-sama and I will support you nya.”

“Yeah. I’m counting on you two.”

When I said that, the 2 of them exchanged gazes and spoke while laughing.

“I suddenly feel itchy all over.”

” ... I’ve been surprised the second time for today nya~.”

I felt gratitude toward the 2 of them, especially after yesterday.

“Come on! Let’s go.”

We began walking toward the Adventurer’s Guild with the usual formation, with me right in the middle, Lionel walking ahead and Cathy protecting the rear.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 090: Disturbing Rumours About The Philosopher's Past

When we arrived at the Adventurer's Guild, voices came from within.

“Dragonslayer.”

“Dragonewt's messenger.”

“Torturer from hell.”

“Object X's poster child.”

I understand dragon slayer, but aren't all the others weird? Even I would drown in tears after hearing those words.

My heart denied all the voices from the surroundings and I headed toward the reception.

“Good afternoon. I wish to meet with either Jasuan-dono or Jias-dono, is it alright?”

“Ple, please wait a moment.”

The cat beastman receptionist ran up the stairs.

Jasuan-dono appeared with a green face and was sweating profusely.

“Jasuan-dono, I’ll be hurt if you show such demeanour. I only made you drink that because I was seriously angry.”

“Ha, haha. What are you talking about? What can I do for you?”
(TL: He spoke super politely.)

Object X has the power to implant trauma into the dragonewts huh.

While feeling slightly sympathetic toward Jasuan-dono, I conveyed my business to him.

“I wish to talk about the matter regarding attracting adventurers as well as regarding the monsters within the undeveloped forest that expand across the undeveloped land.”

After I said that, Jasuan-dono transformed from his previous comedic appearance and spoke.

“It’s inconvenient to speak here so please come to the guildmaster’s room.”

Thinking that there was some trouble brewing from his expression, I followed Jasuan-dono and visited the guildmaster’s room.

Jias-dono was there as well.

Possibly due to them being siblings, seeing Jasuan-dono's serious expression, he offered his seat.

“And so, what do you wish to talk about the matter regarding attracting adventurers as well as the monsters within the undeveloped forest that expand across the undeveloped land?”

Jasuan-dono reiterated the question to inform Jias-dono as well.

“Yeah. Yesterday, I headed to the undeveloped forest to procure materials. The monsters we defeated there were mostly the commonly heard of goblins, orcs, and wolf type monsters.”

“I see, so you entered the undeveloped forest.”

Jias-dono furrowed his brows and closed his eyes.

“There were trolls and mandrakes as well but I did not imagine that those monsters are traded with high prices so I came to confirm with the Adventurer's Guild.”

Jias-dono opened his eyes and began speaking.

“Mandrakes are traded at about 10 gold coins by the Herbalist Guild so they are without a doubt costly materials. However, that

is the only expensive material within that forest.”

” ... What do you mean?”

“There are rumours about that forest being the habitat of spirits.”

But it really is?

” ”

“Ah, I understand that there are none today. However, in the past, I heard that there were many adventurers who aimed to obtain its blessing or get rich quick by capturing the spirit.”

Looks like a lot happened to the water spirit but this is a different matter from that.

“So what do you mean by that is all there is to the forest now?”

“Apparently, the adventurers kept losing their way and the monsters attacked regardless of day or night. Moreover, there was once an outbreak of monsters from the forest and a stampede occurred but I heard that Philosopher-sama solved it.”

“Did Philosopher-sama ... cleanse the forest?”

“According to the literature from that time, he summoned numerous spirits and defeated thousands of monsters alone.”

” ... Sounds like he was very strong.”

“Yeah. However, after defending Ienith, he remarked that “There’s no way those who hold malicious intent can see spirits!” so adventurers and merchants began leaving Ienith.”

I somehow had an inkling to what happened next.

” Don’t tell me the reason why there wasn’t a Healer’s Guild in Ienith was because?”

” ... Yeah. Philosopher-sama supported Ienith when he was alive and the construction of the wells and spice seeds is told to be brought by Philosopher-sama. However, it is also said that Philosopher-sama was the one who brought about the poverty and when we were young, I heard that he was chased out of Ienith.”

Saving Ienith from the monster’s onslaught, he spoke out for the sake of the spirits which caused the economic crisis of Ienith. Philosopher-sama took responsibility by not only investing his own money, he also worried about the future of their industry but ... it’s saddening to see that he is resented by the subsequent generations.”

“By any chance was that related to the start of the humanoid-supremacy group?”

” ... I can’t say that it is unrelated. There was certainly records that there were many beastwomen among the wives of Philosopher-sama.”

So Philosopher-sama was a Riajuu huh. (TL: Riajuu = Someone with a fulfilling life/ successful social life)

Well, he did his work splendidly and he surely must have been ... it’s pointless to have delusions and to drop dirty jokes so I’ll stop there. (TL: He was going to say his member must have been splendid as well hahaha.)

“If we want to attract adventurers, where would you designate the hunt for monsters?”

That’s the fundamental question.

If there are particularly strong and high-value monsters then there would not be any problem.

For example, the retired adventurers can work as escorts to the borders of the country, sell honey and mead, sow seeds in the fields and study cotton, those that are good in fieldwork can change their job as well.

Whether or not it’s beneficial or detrimental, I believe that by arranging for clothes, food, and lodging and making the place easy to live in, it would definitely make the city a place people would

want to live in.

Jias-dono stood up and took out a map.

“You’ve seen this map before but here.”

Jias-dono pointed at a blank zone.

“Wasn’t it only mountains or rather cliffs there?”

“Yeah. But according to the reports, I heard that it does not continue as cliffs indefinitely.”

..... Heard?

“You mentioned that you heard of it, who did you hear from?”

“A bird beastmen.”

I did not have a good impression of Ienith’s tiger, bird and rabbit beastmen. (TL: I understand tiger but I don’t know why bird and rabbit as well...did they do something?)

“Incidentally, what can be found there?”

“I received reports that there were Harpies and Lamias, Rock Lizards and the Fairies, Nymphs and Dryads as well as other never

seen before monsters.”

It was like a fantasy monster parade, but doesn't this contradict the words from the Philosopher?

“Confirming the report ... can't be done huh. Who was the bird beastman?”

“He never appeared after that. Hence, the Adventurer's Guild never confirmed his story.”

Most likely because it was too suspicious.

Furthermore, there was no evidence ... I thought that they are easily swayed but are the adventurers different?

“However once we expand, or wait there's that huh. So troublesome.”

“Yeah. In actual fact, many adventurers suffered injuries. After that, the labyrinth increased activity so this story disappeared but I heard that it resurfaced once again.”

Alongside the description by Jias-dono with a meek expression, Jasuan-dono made an expression as if it was the first time he heard of it but I'll put that aside for now.

” ... I see. It smells like trouble but please work hard. By the way,

I have prepared dwellings for the sake of attracting adventurers.”

“I’m delighted to hear that but you did well to prepare such a budget.”

... I see. So he is picky about money after all but that means the profits ... is he pooling them somewhere and exploiting it?

... I’ll have to think about it later.

I smiled and answered.

“I paid from my own pocket. Because of that, I intend to hold all rights to it. Incidentally, the location is scheduled to be the current slums district. The inspection will be conducted by the Adventurer’s Guild so I wish to trouble you all to do so.”

” ... Slums district ... looks like you have something planned. Seems like we’ll have to select decent personnel as well.”

He stiffened and I wondered why was he the vice guildmaster, but I am also more useless compared to Jordo-san so I guess I’ll have to open my mind to the possibility that the number 2 manages the organization. I stood up and lowered my head.

“Yeah. If I leave it to Jias-dono and Jasuan-dono, I believe that you 2 would be able to interview adventurers who can work without discriminating. Later, I’ll write down the adventurers who I wish to hire as well as the requirements for the adventurers who

want to retire and pass it to you so I'll leave it in your hands.”

“”Yes.””

Jasuan-dono and Jias-dono stood up and corrected their posture before replying.

Thinking that it is alright to trust these 2 people, I decided to ask another thing of them.

“I wish to meet with the Herbalist Guild’s guildmaster so please act as an intermediary for us.”

“Understood.”

I smiled lightly as I left.

After leaving the Adventurer’s Guild, we began returning to the Healer’s Guild.

“The plan will gradually begin with this but seems like it will be hard for it to proceed smoothly.”

“We must extract the bad buds when it is still early.”

“We never know if this might be somebody’s conspiracy nya.”

“Ha~. Hey you two, won’t you consider dispelling the slave contract and becoming my followers? It’s fine by me if you want to be on equal footing with me as well.”

I said and the 2 of them laughed and replied with the same words.

“I would like to remain as a slave. I am already a vassal to Luciel-sama in my heart so please work me to your fullest.”

“Same as Lionel-sama nya. Moreover, I can collect information from various aspects as a slave so leave it to me nya.”

” ... As expected ... huh.”

I dropped my shoulder and walked as I thought of how to overcome the future.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 091: Luciel's Plan

After returning to the Healer's Guild, we headed directly for the basement.

The underground 1st floor has completely been converted into a pasture.

" I guess the fields on this floor have already been moved to the underground 3rd floor."

"So amazing."

"Paula and the elf are rivals who love magic tools nya. Looks like Dolan-san regulated their competitive spirit well."

Their words were exactly my thoughts.

The ones who are delighted with this new setup are only Fornoir and the horses but well I guess that is fine in its own right.

However, I wonder how the underground 3rd floor is like?

I became curious and would not be able to calm down without confirming it.

We immediately descended down the stairs.

” ... This is definitely abnormal.”

My true feelings spilled out from my mouth.

We arrived at the underground 3rd floor.

It had always been Dolan and Paula’s workshop to the right-hand side while the opposite end was a wall.

Where the wall once was now spread a field of about an area of 10a (1000m²) with trees planted without much particular order.

In addition, similar to the underground 1st floor, a pseudo-sun have already been properly constructed.

I’ve certainly thought that by entrusting it to him, Dolan would have expanded the underground 3rd floor but I did not imagine that they had already progressed to half the goal.

” ... If I ever had the desire to make it, won’t they be able to create an underground country?”

Lionel and Cathy could only nod at my mutterings.

When we approached closer, the Hacchi tribe Haniru-dono noticed us and flew over.

“Philosopher-sama, they are amazing alright. If it is here, we would be able to live with a peace of mind.”

“Hahaha. Well, even I was surprised by this. However, the city of Ienith does not seem to be as safe as you think so it is safer to slowly move in after the base for Haniru-dono’s Hacchi tribe is made.”

” ... I see. Then, please allow us to accompany you when you all head for the forest for the next material procurement. I’m thinking about bringing along individuals from the settlement as well as the seeds of the flowers and trees that produce honey.”

I noticed a slight look of sympathy exuding from his gaze toward my efforts but he seems more positive about it compared to yesterday ... eh? Isn’t this a sign of OK? I asked to confirm.

“You mean?”

“Yeah. Please let us assist you.”

Alright!! With this, the personnel required for the domestic affairs of the underground have been perfectly assembled.

This time, a large portion of credit went to Dolan and Paula, they certainly did a good job.

Looks like Dolan have firmly grabbed onto the Hacchi tribe's hearts.

While praising Dolan for a good job in my mind, I told Haniru-dono that tomorrow night we will have a meeting with the bear beastman Brian-dono and the slum's boss Dollarstar-san.

"I see. Philosopher-sama not only did work for this underground area but also worked hard at various other places as well."

"Yeah. Nevertheless, I initially anticipated that it would take a long time, longer than half a year, for this place to take form so I would be better able to concentrate on the work above ground if your Hacchi tribe is here."

I smiled while nodding to show that I felt really glad.

"If that's the case then shouldn't we immediately head for the forest?"

"No, we are still constructing the storage facility to house the materials and considering whether to confer anti-fire precautions. Either way, we would have to head toward the forest to procure magic stones."

It would be troublesome if our usage of magic stone underground is leaked out so I had given up on purchasing magic stones from the Adventurer's Guild.

“So it means it will be soon?”

“Yeah. I plan to do so a few days later. At that time, with the dwarves and elves, we should be able to transplant the trees without much burden on them so please don’t refrain from letting us know which trees to transplant.”

“As expected of Philosopher-sama to think so far ahead.”

Staring at me with sparkling eyes, I could not say that I did not give much thought into it and I applied a mask of smiles from beginning to the end.

I wanted to continue with work but it seemed like time for lunch so I called for everyone to have lunch.

By the time we reached the canteen, Naria had already finished preparing the food. Apparently she was aided by the slave boys and girls that she taught.

“How is it Naria?”

I didn’t specify anything.

“It’s going well. I should be able to push them up to the minimum line if I have 3 months.”

I don’t know what her minimum line is but the slave boys and

girls all had happy expressions.

The slaves here were made up of humans and half beastkin, with 3 boys and 8 girls.

Apart from the 3 elves, the boys and girls here were all below 20 years old, with some even younger than me. Those orphans under 15 were taken care by the adults and the others received occupational training from Naria for a year.

I also knew that apart from Naria, the off-duty healers and priest knights also taught them various things.

There were prototypes of schools here so I strongly felt that to let the younger generation succeed, there needs to be a school that allows anybody to enter and provides an environment to study after all.

After lunch, I returned to the guildmaster's room and looked at the parchments I received from Dolan and the others.

" So we need more than 2000 orc-class magic stones huh ... Why do the 2 of you look so delighted?"

"Well~ Going to the forest or to the labyrinth, I don't mind either of them."

"Do remember to bring along escorts when you go out nya."

“No, I’ll be bringing you guys along. I’ll be bringing you guys along but there definitely won’t be combat, please cherish your lives more.”

“I’ll firmly guard you this time as well.”

“I’ll tightly escort you this time nya.”

While thinking that the 2 of them completely blazing with motivations felt both reliable but also slightly sweltering, I slightly changed the topic.

“I fully understand that the 2 of you are very competent ... taking into consideration the horse beastmen that appeared in the reports, there might be cases where we need to fight with beastmen.”

” ... Well, I’m pretty sure we will have to.”

“I’ll decide on whether to kill them or incapacitate them depending on my opponent’s strength nya.”

“I’ve killed monsters and killed animals for food but I have never killed those who can speak the same words as humans. I might not even be able to fight.”

Coming to this world, I have killed monsters and animals,

dismantled them and ate them.

However, I have not killed people or beastmen.

Even though it is a life all the same ... and I understand that it is contradictory, but I still feel that there is something different.

Something within me must have gone wrong.

I felt like trembling from the fear of thinking about it but Lionel spoke in a calm voice and Cathy spoke after him.

“That is alright Luciel-sama. Except when it is unavoidable, allow us to carry out the dirty work.”

“Luciel-sama can reach out your hand as always nya. We will drive away the hands of the wicked nya.”

... Isn't that way too cool? There must be a reason why they stubbornly deny getting released from the slave contract. I'm not sure if I can resolve it but I set my mind to one day repay my debt towards them.

” ... Thank you.”

The 2 of them laughed and we discussed the plan harmoniously and spent our time conducting combat training in the underground 4th floor after we came to a conclusion.

The next night, Dollarstar-san and 3 subordinates and Brian-dono and 2 followers visited the Healer's Guild and we began our meeting in the guildmaster's room together with Haniru-dono and the others.

“Thank you for gathering today. The reason why we are gathered here today is with regard to a new domestic affairs plan. I've had you all pledge previously so I believe you all already understand but please allow me to explain slightly more into detail. We'll first start with some self-introductions.”

I smiled slightly and looked at all their faces. Dollarstar-san raised his hand and began his self-introduction.

“I function as the boss of the slums district, the name's Dollarstar. We came into contact with the S-rank Healer-sama there because my youngsters attacked him and were turned into slaves. He found out about the situation with regards to the half beastmen and offered a helping hand. I bet my life and swear allegiance.”

Saying it so over the top will cause the others to pull back okay.

The next to raise his hand was Haniru-dono.

“I am Haniru of the Hacchi tribe. My clan in the forest was saved by Philosopher-sama when we were on the brink of destruction. I'm impressed by Philosopher-sama's magnificent plans so I wish to cooperate in this business venture.”

I noticed that the bear beastmen's eyes grew brighter when they heard Hacchi tribe.

“I am the bear beastman, Brian. Our race was being oppressed due to our small numbers but Luciel-sama gave a helping hand and offered honey so we chose to affiliate ourselves with him.”

Affiliation ... sounds like the merger and acquisitions of some listed companies? It's like I acquired the bear beastmen company from Ienith using honey ...

Although it is the truth, he talked about honey unnecessarily but it's great that Haniru-dono smiled when he heard that, but I wonder if he felt some aversion toward it or felt irritated.

For the time being it seems alright so I sighed in relief.

“This time, we will advance our discussion in 3 stages. First, the dismantlement of the slums district. Second, the dwellings to attract adventurers for the establishment of the school. Third, regarding the new business.”

After declaring that, looking at the surrounding, other than Brian-dono with a blank look, the others all nodded in silence.

“Firstly, the schedule for the dismantlement of the slums district, or before that, have the construction schedule for the Healing District been decided upon?”

“I’ve not heard from them. They most likely plan to blame it on us if the schedule is delayed anyway.”

Well, if that’s how they do it, we’ll just rapidly push forward our work.

“I’ll push them during the next meeting. Half a day should be enough for us to convert the area into a vacant lot. However, we need magic stones so please take into consideration that the soonest it will be done will be one month later.”

“Is it really alright to prioritize the construction of the healing district? I have already obtained consent from the slum residents to move to new residences so aren’t there other things we ought to do?”

Dollarstar-san asked worriedly but I’ve already confirmed that there would not be any problems with Dolan and the letters have already been written so there should not be any problems.

“Yeah. There are none as of now. We’ll move on to the second agenda now.”

I confirmed with my surroundings and continued.

“With regards to the school and adventurer’s dwellings, the houses for the school and adventurers will be constructed parts-wise so it’s alright.”

I said and nodded with a smile.

“What do you mean by parts-wise? In the first place, is a school possible?”

Brian-dono could not take in everything and it was obvious that the approved agenda from the representative meeting attended by all the leaders was not transmitted to him.

“Yes. That was approved during the meeting with the leaders.”

“That will all be paid for by Luciel-sama?”

“It seems that way right? There are various gimmicks applied here but ultimately I will not suffer any losses. Though, please keep this a secret.”

It looked like Brian-dono was interested in the school apart from his interest in honey.

“For the 3rd agenda, it would be easier to understand by actually seeing it. Please follow me.”

It was then that the eyes of Dollarstar-san, Brian-dono and their followers who entered the underground for the first time were opened wide.

And when they knew of the plan, Brian-san and his 2 followers all unanimously said.

『Are you a god!』

I was reminded of the time when I first met Paula and laughed, but I immediately denied it and only said a few words.

“Let us all work hard together from here on out.”

The bear beastmen all transformed with a 『Bofun』 sound and roared.

『Kuma~~~!!』 (TL: Kuma = Bear just in case you all don't know)

After their cries ended, Brian-dono prostrated on the ground with his enormous frame and spoke.

“We vow to do our best from now on for the sake of Luciel-sama and honey.”

That overly large impact dumbfounded everyone in the beginning but laughter soon rang out.

Seems like they transform every time they get excited.

Thinking that the bear beastmen are really amusing after getting

to know a new fact about them, I requested a few things that I wanted Brian-dono to help with.

I assigned Kefin squad and Yarubo squad to escort them to ensure that they reached home safely.

“What do you think?”

“There shouldn’t be any problems with them. However, other than the dragonewts, we might get tripped by the other 7 races if we do not thoroughly investigate them.”

“Please leave that to me nya. Apart from when we depart for the forest, could I have a little freedom to move around nya?”

“I’ll assign Kefin and the others as well but please do not push yourself too hard.”

“I understand nya.”

Thus, the first behind-the-scenes meeting had ended.

In preparation for the leader’s meeting 2 days later, I thought of causing a stir.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

I'm working hard to gradually up the tempo.

Chapter 092: Written Pledge

Within the mansion where the leaders gather at the northern central region of the capital Ienith, I attended a meeting with the representatives of the 8 races.

The fox beastman representative Forens acted as the chairperson of the meeting.

“Well then, we shall begin this representatives meeting. Firstly, allow me to present the various earnings of the Merchant’s Guild.”

Forens-dono summarised the reports of the net incomes and expenditures of the state-owned shops and the Merchant’s Guild.

He reported in detail what was sold last month and how it was sold along with the income.

I stayed silent for the time being as the dragonewt and tiger beastmen did not speak out during this report.

“That is all. Please raise your hand if you have any questions, if not we will proceed on to our next agenda ... there doesn’t seem to be any so the next agenda would be the progress of the respective fields, Olga-dono please start.”

“Yes. Regarding this month’s harvest ... ”

He explained about the harvested spices, the spices that can be obtained next month, and the presence or absence of disease.

Next, the rabbit beastman Ririaldo-dono reported on the extension of the fields and the presence or absence of monsters.

The dog beastman Sebec-dono proceeded to report on the fields that they have cultivated.

“Next, regarding security, it has always been managed by Jack-dono until now but from now on it will be managed by Kyasral-dono.”

“Four days ago the bear beastmen transformed but other than that there were no other remarkable incidents.”

It was eye-catching ... alright.

“Regarding that incident, I handed over the honey I possessed so I apologize. I sometimes use it in cooking but the other day when Souther-dono accompanied me, the bear beastman Brian-dono requested for me to import honey and I judged that it was impossible to achieve immediately so ...”

“There’s no helping it if you gave them honey.”

Souther-dono said as he spoke from above.

“Then moving on, Souther-dono, any updates on the monitoring of the skies?”

“No problems.”

Souther-dono answered.

“Okay. Well then, do the 8 races have anything ... I apologize. Including Luciel-dono, please raise your hand if you wish to suggest anything.”

Nobody raised their hands. I guess this happens normally.

Are they planning to ignore the work they promised to do just like this?

There was a need to ask about that and the meeting would be totally meaningless if it ended like this.

Since that's the case, I'll have to use the report I received well.

I thought until that point and raised my hand.

” ... So, Luciel-dono.”

There was a momentary pause but I'll ignore that.

For the domestic affairs that I plan to gradually advance, even if they originally do not have the motivation to do it, as long as I convince them then there wouldn't be any problems.

“Since yesterday, I have something that I've been bothered with but rather than a report it's more of a question. Firstly, who is supposed to drive the plans for the healing district? In addition, how about the structure of that plot of land and the relocation of the people living there? Who is responsible for the budget and to acquire the manpower required to construct it?”

I asked and the room became dead silent.

I imagine they did not think that I would ask about the healing district.

I can also somewhat understand that it would not proceed at all if nothing is done.

However, I will not allow them to disregard their verbal promises.

“What's the matter? If it has not been decided upon, is it alright if we distribute the responsibilities here? I think that there is no reason for us to scrap the decision to make the healing district that was made during the representative meeting.”

I said and laughed.

” ... Regarding that, we are currently deciding on the allocation of budget.”

“I see. What is the progress status? Is the budgeting team made up of only Forens-dono?”

“No, I plan to carry it out together with the dragonewts.”

“I see. Well then Jack-dono, swear to the dragon and tell me about the progress status?”

” ... It’s the first time I’ve heard of this.”

He looked like he just received a bolt from the blue.

Normally they would dodge the question but since I’ve been told that they would not lie to me because I possess the blessing of a dragon, it was the natural outcome.

“I see. Well then Forens-dono? What is the meaning of this?”

“Well everybody will forget about conversations sometimes.”

Olga-dono said and cut into the conversation.

“I see. That is true. I trust that everything will be put in place by next month’s report. Including the construction period, personnel,

and budget.”

” ... Yes. I understand.”

He nodded.

“Second, of the 6154 residents living in Ienith, 1600 are children. Leaving those 1600 people out from the calculation for the payment of workers, there should be quite a sum of money floating but is it left floating somewhere?”

“That should not be the case, please wait a moment.”

Forens-dono tossed out his facilitator role and went to collect the ledger.

“Did I anger him? Ah, that’s right Souther-dono, I wish to ask something, I heard that there was a brave bird beastman who drew a map of the blank area to the left of Ienith, is it true?”

” ... I have heard of such rumours but I did not hear about who it was.”

“I see. Then, could you help me find out by next month’s meeting? It’s for the sake of attracting adventurers so please report even if he doesn’t exist. Because I’ll have to think of other strategies to attract them.”

” ... Understood. It seemed like he was an adventurer so I’m sorry if there really isn’t such a person ...”

“No worries. I’ll entrust it to you.”

I answered with a smile and this time I spoke to the tiger beastmen’s representative.

He should be Shaza’s substitute but I could not establish a good impression of him. Maybe it’s because he is a tiger beastman?

“Within the report just now, there was the talk about the day that the bear beastmen transformed, but apparently the people from the tiger beastmen race have been applying pressure on Brian-dono, have you heard about this as the representative of the tiger beastmen?”

After I said that, Souther-dono reacted before the tiger beastman could.

“What! I’ve already told them to lay low after the incident with Shaza, what are they thinking.”

Under that intimidation, the tiger beastman opened his mouth in a hurry.

“Pl, please let me verify the facts. It’s the first time I’ve heard of it.”

I don't know if he was panicking because he really didn't know about it or because Brian-dono talked about it but I felt that the atmosphere was gradually getting chaotic.

The representative's office term is 2 years.

Moreover, this time, it was only for a year and there wasn't any policy about it.

For the healing district case as well, I felt that all of them were not well-informed about the wages and payment for each of the races.

The representatives were most likely just figureheads.

Which was why it was fine as long as they did not cause harm to their own races.

"There's one other point regarding that question. Who is the person who pays the workers' using the national treasury?"

"... The representative in office."

Olga-dono showed an expression of serious thought.

"I see ... that's right. Well then, I also have something to report regarding the school and slums district. I'll start with the progress,

the slums district is expected to be dismantled 3 months later. Next, the school and houses meant to attract the adventurers are expected to be constructed on the vacant lot within 3 months to half a year.”

“That’s wonderful. Nevertheless, you did well to erect a plan to eliminate the half beastmen.”

Ririaldo-dono said that so he agrees to eliminate the half beastmen.

“I did not eliminate them. I moved them to a place that matches them.”

I gave a grin.

“That’s amazing.”

The dog beastman Sebec-dono, cat beastman Kyasral-dono, and the quarreling bird beastman Souther-dono and Shaza’s substitute all gave a smile.

The wolf beastman Olga-dono and the dragonewt Jack-dono gave anxious and sorrowful expressions.

“And so, the construction cost and the magic stones cost a total of 30 white gold coins but naturally the country would bear the cost right?”

I said with a smile and the replies were all as expected.

“Ienith’s economy would go bankrupt.”

“You should know that we can’t draw out such an amount.”

“Didn’t you mention in the previous meeting that you would not apply material costs?”

“No, I only specified the logs taken from the undeveloped forest. I said that I would not draw funds from the national treasury for directing adventurers to the undeveloped land but I did not say a word about everything being free?”

“No, I’m pretty sure you said that you would not claim for anything apart from manpower costs.”

Ririaldo-dono said so but it was completely his own assumptions.

“Hahaha. That’s wrong? The person who said that was Ririaldo-dono. I only said to leave the slums district to me? Please recall why I became the representative for this city even though it does not benefit me.”

I rejected his claims.

“Luciel-dono, thank you for waiting.”

“Oh, Forens-dono. And so, what did you find?”

” As what you said, the accounting does not tally.”

“Meaning?”

“Seems like there’s corruption happening somewhere. Thanks to that, it would be difficult to extract the funds that you requested for earlier.”

“The plan is already advancing so 5 white gold coin has already been used?”

” ... That ...”

” ... Surely you don’t intend for me to invest all of my personal funds for the sake of Ienith right?”

I scanned each of the representatives and all of them averted their line of sight.

“So I’ve been treated as a fool ... If so then I’ll throw out the exchange conditions. Firstly, I wish to purchase the entire area of the current slums district of Ienith.”

Rather than objecting to that, they all had puzzled expressions.

“Next, I will construct the school and all of the adventurers houses but the rights will belong to the Healer’s Guild.”

“What about the entrance requirements for the school?”

Seems like Olga-dono wants Shiela-chan to attend the school by all means.

“I’ve mentioned it previously but for children, it is basically free of charge. Forens-dono, is it the country that buys the herbs from the Herbalist Guild? Or is it the Merchant’s Guild?”

“The Merchant’s Guild handles it.”

“I see. If that’s the case, then if the church makes something for sale, I wish to have the authorization to sell the items without paying intermediary fees. Those are my 3 requests.”

“Purchasing the slums district, buildings and rights, and authorization to sell products without intermediary fees Usually, it would be allowed given it is individual assets, but I can’t grant it to a person from Saint Schull’s Allied Nations. The second request can be allowed with conditions attached. I can acknowledge the third request.”

“What are the conditions for the second?”

“To comply when Ienith requests to purchase it.”

” That’s fine. Finally, I’ll say this, I don’t want to go into dispute for claims that I did not say it. All the various race’s representatives here acknowledged it. Also, I would like your signatures on this written pledge.”

I took out a parchment and wrote down the words I said just now.

Then, after the others all certified it, I channelled magical power into the written pledge and dedicated it to the Chief God Kuraiya.
(TL: Ooo so that’s how it works)

It was recorded that one would lose their right as the representative if their own race broke their promise so there were some who paused for a moment but eventually they all signed.

It was decided that 3 written pledge copies would be made, one would be kept by me, another kept in the leader’s mansion and the last one stored for safe keeping in the Adventurer’s Guild.

The reason why it was kept in the Adventurer’s Guild because there was the content about attracting adventurers so the suggestion was accepted smoothly.

“This will end the meeting today. Please circulate the information to your respective race. Let us construct the school and the housing for the adventurers. Also, I sincerely request for

the cooperation of the Adventurer's Guild and healing district to make it such that the adventurers have a peace of mind when earning a living."

"From now, I'll have the dragonewts, tiger beastmen, and bear beastmen begin work to gradually expand the city to make land for the healing district. I'll talk to the residents to adjust for the move. The bird beastmen shall closely communicate with the Adventurer's Guild to explore the matter about the monsters. The other races please continue to do your best for the fields."

Forens-dono gave out instructions to each race.

Forens-dono's eyes were bloodshot from confirming that there was fraud occurring so nobody could stop him now with that atmosphere.

Thus, the monthly meeting of representative ended.

As I was walking back, I thought to myself that it was the crucial period from now on.

Originally, I thought that I had to be more cunning.

To obtain full authority for the slums district and to keep the current factory operation in the Healer's Guild a secret.

However, a single person's oral pledge would not be binding so there was a need to put forth a written pledge that binds the whole

race like I did this time.

I've been in this world for too long and had gotten the bad habit of relying on pledges that were not writing down on paper.

It was thanks to Forens-san that I noticed that.

As I was deep in thought, Lionel laughingly told me.

“This time, the target on your life would be delayed for 3 months.”

” ... Yeah. Somehow, but ...”

“This time, Luciel-sama's word were slightly dangerous nya. It wouldn't be strange if the conversation somehow fell apart nya.”

“Ugh, sorry.”

It's been a long time since I had business negotiations so my words were all over the place and the sequence of talks was totally wrong.

“If you can't learn to emit a stronger personality, you would not be able to establish what you want to establish nya.”

“That's the thing, Cathy. Luciel-sama is still 20 years old, there's

still plenty of time.”

Lionel said with a smile but I am actually 35 years old with a 5 years gap where I was not working so I don't really have any excuses.

“To be honest, without Cathy's intelligence, we would not have been able to pull Forens-dono into our alliance. Thank you.”

“I was the one who passed on the information but Luciel-sama was the one who thought of a way to make him an ally nya.”

Forens-dono's wife was in a condition that she could not see with her eyes.

Yesterday I received that report and went to Forens-dono's house to treat his wife.

That was it.

To be able to investigate the reticent Forens-dono, Cathy and Kefin's group's work led to the success of this time's meeting.

Thinking about what will come in the future, I decided in my heart to properly role-play the situations for events such as meetings that I know about ahead of time.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

An author who hopes for a miracle going into the busy world of the busy season.

Chapter 093: Herbalist Guild Guildmaster

When we returned to the Healer's Guild after the monthly meeting, there was a message from the Adventurer's Guild's Jasuan-dono.

"I'm sorry but I would have to trouble you to visit the Herbalist Guild tomorrow at noon. That was the message he conveyed."

I heard the report from a female slave.

Perhaps it was due to Naria's teaching or due to her original education, I felt that I could give the female slave full passing marks as a receptionist.

"I see. Please continue to work hard under Naria."

She happily bowed after I said that.

My heart softened a little looking at that and I headed down to the underground.

"Is the underground 3rd floor completed already?"

"Not yet."

Dolan appeared when I muttered that as I saw the large and wide space.

“You’ve been seriously working very well lately.”

I conveyed words of appreciation to Dolan.

He really accomplished such a major undertaking with just Paula, I can seriously bow down to him.

“What are you saying, it’s giving me goose bumps. Luciel-sama was the one who came up with such grand ideas, I merely possess the strength to realise it. That’s all there is to it.”

Dolan also doesn’t waver huh ... I thought as I checked on the progress.

” ... I see. Then what about the school and the houses for the adventurers?”

“Since they would all be the same, once we complete one house, all the other houses could be constructed based on it so it would be done quickly. However, magic stones and wood are insufficient, as stated in the report.”

“Development of that is postponed for the time being.”

” ... That’s regrettable. That made my spirit boil the most.”

Dolan sighed as he shook his head.

“Luciel ... sama. The analysis has been completed.” Paula called out.

“Don’t say it like you analysed it all by yourself. Luciel-sama, I led and completed the analysis of the items you acquired in the labyrinth.” Rician interrupted our conversation.

” ... Firstly, the bracelet.” Paula ignored Rician and passed to me the bracelet I acquired from a treasure box in the 47th floor of the labyrinth.

“It is an item that would be activated when the user channels magical power into it and says the magic word. A wind barrier would form with the weaver in the center and it can guard against fire and ice magic as well as breath attacks.”

..... Barrier?

” ...Perhaps, if that is activated, even the Red Dragon’s breath would be?”

” ... The barrier might break for all we know.”

Paula said while diverting her eyes.

“Luciel-sama, what is this Red Dragon you speak of?”

“The item inside the 50th floor treasure chest is the Key of the Hermit.”

Paula ignored Rician and handed me the key I acquired in the 50th floor.

“How is this used and what effects does it have?”

“If you channel magical power into the key and imagine an invisible door as you turn the key, you would be able to create a building within the space.”

..... It’s a cheat item different from what I had thought.

I thought that it was a key that could open anything but it’s a cheat item in a different sense.

“Does it mean that even if I set off on a journey I would be safe with this key?”

” ”

Paula hesitated.

“That key is from a low rank lesser magic series of the Key of the Hermit series so people cannot enter the space.”

Rician described on behalf of Paula.

While thinking that those 2 were a surprisingly good combination, I was momentarily disappointed at the fact that people could not enter but doesn't it mean that I could journey without exposing Fornoir and the horses to danger?

“Would Fornoir and the horses be alright?”

” ... Yeah. However, it is still a lesser magic key so it's more logical to sell it for a high price? You can sell it for a high price even in auctions.”

Rician emphasized her point but she is most likely hoping for funding or magic stones for development after all.

I've heard that that was the cause as to why she became a slave.

“I feel that I have a need for it so I don't have any intention of selling it.”

Rician kept quiet after I explicitly told her my intention.

“Regarding this book you entrusted to me, I could not decipher it.”

Evidently, I would need to consign it to an institution that deciphers words and ancient characters but as long as I have no

idea what is written in it, it would remain within my magic bag.

After that, after spending time to talk about magic tools that would supply the fields with water and other magic tools that would make work more convenient, I explained to them that we would be heading to the forest in the morning the day after tomorrow.

“That’s why, do not do things like pulling an all-nighter tomorrow night.”

After telling them that, I conveyed the same contents to Haniru of the Hacchi tribe and subsequently went for training.

The next day, me, Lionel and Cathy together with Jasuan-dono, the 4 of us came to the Herbalist Guild.

“I have not heard about the fine details yet but how did the other party react?”

“He immediately consented the moment I took out Luciel-sama’s name. I was wary due to the Gurohara incident but apparently he have been wanting to meet Luciel-sama.”

“Is that so ... and until when would Jasuan-dono continue adding -sama to my name? I won’t force you to drink Object X without any reason alright.”

“No, Luciel-sama’s force can only be referred to as such. If

possible please allow me to continue doing so.”

” ... Please don’t do so as much as possible. And definitely do not do it in public.”

“I will be careful.”

After entering the Herbalist Guild, instead of heading straight to the guildmaster’s room, we were brought to the underground workshop.

Because of the smell that stung our noses, I passed nose plugs to Lionel and Cathy before entering the workshop.

Jasuan-dono was affected by the smell but he laughed that the pungent odour was weaker than Object X so he had no problem.

“Thank you for coming.”

The person inside the workshop noticed us and the racoon beastman greeted us with a grin.

“Smic-dono, can’t you do something about this smell?”

“It’s because I’m in the middle of compounding. Sorry.”

“As I informed you previously ... Luciel-sa,-dono, this is the

Herbalist Guild's guildmaster Smic-dono. Smic-dono, this is Luciel-dono."

... Why did he correct and repeat himself? Oh well it doesn't matter. Jais-dono had been mediating for us until now so I'll start by introduce myself.

"Nice to meet you, I'm Luciel, an S-rank healer. Thank you for making time for us today."

"I've heard about Luciel-sama often. I'm Smic, the head of the Herbalist Guild."

"We are able to treat wounds with magic but we cannot cure illness so I would be pleased if the Herbalist Guild would be a part of the healing district as well."

"Thank you. By the way, what is this healing district?"

I could only see a racoon figurine when he tilted his head in doubt but I kept my presence of mind and replied.

"... Have you met with Jordo from the Healer's Guild?"

"I have not. It's my job to make medicine in this Herbalist Guild so I delegate all other work to the vice-guildmaster. This time, the person-in-charge was sent by the Herbalist Guild so please rest easy."

This person has not learnt from experience at all. Furthermore, he is the type that would completely do what he himself wants to do and abandon the Herbalist Guild's profits.

It would be fine if he was a researcher but is the Herbalist Guild seriously alright?

“To put it simply, let us unite the Healer's Guild and Herbalist Guild and create a place that can treat patients with injuries and illness.”

“Hou, that promising. Well, by the way, I heard from my nephew Warabis that Luciel-dono is an acquaintance of Garba and Grulga?”

Is that so.

He is Warabis-dono's ... but he does not end his sentences with “Fu~”.

So it wasn't a racial thing huh.

“Yeah. I was in their care tremendously in the town of Meratoni in the Saint Schull Allied Nations.”

“So you are aware of Object X?”

“Yes. It was originally a pill called God's Grief made by

Philosopher-sama but Object X began after the pill was refined by magic tools into a liquid form right?”

“Luciel-dono is so knowledgeable. That’s right. I am currently creating that.”

To think he was creating that, so he’s a mad scientist, no, a mad herbalist?

I’ll give an ordinary reaction for the time being.

” ... Ooo~”

“I’m thinking that I would be able to dispel my long-standing grudge toward them by letting them eat the God’s Grief made by me.”

Smic-dono then issued a request to Jasuan-dono.

“Jasuan-dono, I’m sorry but I require fresh mandrakes. I’m offering 1 white gold coin per mandrake so I wish to put out a request to collect mandrakes that have last cried within 5 hours.”

“I’m sure I told you that I would not accept such a request. What do you intend to do if the monsters come to invade us?”

” ... Why do you have a grudge toward Garba-san and Grulga-san?”

” ... The job I obtained when I turned an adult was Herbalist. However, I did not shut myself in like this to create medicine. One day, my nephew Warabis angered the 2 of them and I stepped in when Grulga fed him food made with Object X.”

It’s amazing that he stepped in front of those 2 when they were angry.

“When I asked about why they were bullying Warabis, apparently Warabis sold personal belongings reportedly belonging to them to the children that admired them. Apparently there really were real personal belongings among the items.”

” ... Isn’t it normal to be angered by that?”

“Yes. Even though the racoon beastmen is a race who loves to play pranks, that kind of act is unforgivable. Warabis fainted after eating the food from Grulga.”

Grulga-san and Garba-san were also mischievous to retaliate against a prank with Object X.

The reason why this region hates Object X should be the work of Grulga-san.

I listened to Smic-dono’s words.

“Grulga declared that he would forgive Warabis if he ate the same amount of dishes as the number of people he harmed so I also ate for Warabis’s sake.”

” ... That was nice of you.”

“Well, I couldn’t just go home after butting in like that. In the end I could not finish it but the 2 of them still forgave him and promised to never do such a thing to Warabis.”

” ... There has not been a reason to have such a grudge on the 2 of them up until this point?”

“The problem started from then. The girlfriend I had at that time dumped me because of the smell, this workplace also ordered me to make medicine in the underground workshop because of the smell and the smell of medication could no longer be removed from my body.”

Uwah~ It’s a completely unjustified resentment.

“Then shouldn’t you blame Warabis-dono ... ? Warabis-dono was the one who angered them to begin with and the 2 of them did not tell Smic-dono to eat the cooking made with Object X right?”

” They did not say? ... In fact, it felt like they wanted to stop me ... However, if that’s the case then I would not be able to rationalize what I’ve been doing all this time ...”

「Purification」

I applied purification magic and the smell ingrained into Smic-dono's body was removed.

“It would be good if it is slightly more ventilated but are there anything in this room that would react to magic?”

“Eh? There aren't any such item.”

I channelled magical power into purification magic at once and the smell was completely blown away.

“As expected of Luciel-sa, -dono. The smell is completely removed.”

Jasuan-dono joyfully said but I glared at him for a brief moment and his face turned blue.

He had an expression that appealed to pardon him from Object X.

He seemed to be reflecting so I talked to Smic-dono.

“Regardless of your motivation, Smic-dono have been constantly formulating medicine. That should be a work that is more laborious and difficult than chanting magic. I can see that by looking at you.”

” ... Luciel-dono.”

“Also, thinking about it normally, it would be impossible to force Garba-san and Grulga-san to drink that. It would definitely end up with Smic-dono drinking it yourself.”

I gently warned Smic-dono who's breathing was gradually becoming quicker.

“It's alright. Smic-dono realized it before you made a bad decision. Moreover, the time Smic-dono spent in formulating and tweaking dosage will definitely not be in vain. That skill can help a lot of people in the future so let us work hard together.”

” ”

He said a soft “Yes.” that only I could hear.

Then, after Smic-dono settled down, he once again requested Jasuan-dono for mandrakes.

“With mandrakes, I should be able to create high class potions that can recover injuries and magical power at the same time.”

I looked at Lionel and Cathy and they both nodded so it seems like they judged that it was alright.

“If so, then here.”

I took out the mandrake that Kefin plucked from my magic bag.

“This, this is?”

“A mandrake that have not cried past an hour. I’m passing it to you as a sign of us making acquaintance.”

“What!!”

“Please properly listen to the matter regarding the healing district from now on.”

“Yes. However, please let me compound this first. Let me meet again soon.”

He held the mandrake I passed to him with an excited expression and disappeared into the back.

We all had a bitter smile as we looked at that and decided that there was nothing to achieve here now so we left.

I don’t know if there was hostile gazes when we came out from the basement but I felt that Cathy laughed.

Thus, the conversation with Smic-dono ended with a good harvest and I set my mind toward the material procurement tomorrow.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 094: Moving The Hacchi Race

Departing after we had our breakfast, we arrived at the undeveloped forest.

“Fornoir, could you go in?”

I imagined a door and channeled magical power into the Key of the Hermit before turning the key.

A door appeared on the spot and a stable could be seen within it.

As to be expected, I was surprised when I tried using it yesterday.

Apparently, the lesser demons designed various rooms to alleviate stress, it was equipped with rooms for meals, sleep and even massage rooms after exercises.

In the beginning, Fornoir and the other horses were startled but after they found that there wasn't any problem entering the door, they gradually began to relax.

However, only Fornoir hated entering this stable.

And as expected, it refused this time as well.

” ... If that's the case then I have no choice but to have you come along with me this time, do you swear to not move around on your

own?”

Fornoir nodded.

“That’s a smart horse.”

“Maybe it’s a subspecies of a battle horse nya.”

Lionel was impressed while the instant Cathy said those words, Fornoir raised its front legs toward Cathy.

“Calm down Fornoir. Cathy, apologize for treating Fornoir as a monster.”

I was truly flustered.

Fornoir hated being treated as a monster.

A normal horse would not have such a reaction.

However, Fornoir abnormally dislikes such things.

“I meant no offense nya. Please forgive me nya.”

“Burrururuu.”

Cathy lowered her head and it looked like it forgave her while saying something like “It can’t be helped!”.

Something similar might happen in the future so I better tell them in advance.

“There might be some who are discontent about me bringing Fornoir along but her ability to scout is quite excellent. It has been proven when I came from Ienith. She’ll definitely not be in the way so don’t worry.” (TL: Oh finally the author says that Fornoir is a female.)

『Yes!』

There weren’t any objections but I felt that they only did not voice it out.

I conveyed my trust toward Fornoir quietly and entered the forest.

The line-up for the members that came to the undeveloped forest was the same as the previous time, with the addition of Hanirudono from the Hacchi tribe.

I was quite lost as to bring Milfeene and the elves along or not but Cathy strongly wished to bring them along and Lionel shouldered the responsibility so I allowed them to accompany us.

Firstly, under Hanirudono’s guidance, we headed for the Hacchi

tribe's settlement.

“There's a need for me to give my report so please wait a moment.”

Looking at Haniru-dono and his retinues fly off toward the nest in the air, I spoke to Milfeene and the others.”

“I'll guide you to the forest ... Was it Leshy? Did it appear this time? And did you hear the spirit's voice?”

“There has not been any voices from Leshy or Spirit-sama this time.”

Rician replied as a representative.

She and Crecia insisted that they do not want their slave crest to be dispelled so they offered to monitor Milfeene, the fairies, and the spirit this time.

I told them to do as they wish.

“Okay. Let me know if anything happens”

This time, the formation was split into 3 groups.

Me, Lionel, Cathy, Haniru-dono, Dolan, and Milfeene were the

transplanting squad.

Paula, Rician, and Yarubo squad were the material procurement squad.

Kefin squad and Crecia were the scouting squad.

To be honest, the matter about procuring magic stones was on my mind but I chose to go back to my roots and move with survival as the highest priority.

Blunders would happen if everything is hurried.

There was even a proverb for it so it would be best to proceed each step in order.

“Philosopher-sama, I’ve obtained permission. Today, after choosing the trees to transplant, we wish to move 30 percent of the colony, 40 individuals, is that alright?”

Haniru-dono reported delightedly but there wasn’t any talk about the number of individuals so they decided on it themselves.

“There isn’t any problem regarding the number but as I mentioned before, it isn’t safe?”

“Yes I understand. We wish to have approval to construct the nest in the underground below the Healer’s Guild.”

That was my original plan all along and I intended to tell them that but where would they have built the nest if I refused?

“There’s no problem as long as it doesn’t impair the profits. The increase in population was already expected so be at ease and move. However, please properly convey to them that it would not be an environment in which they would be able to frequently return home.”

It’s imperative that I furnish an environment that can ensure their safety but I still have not decided on how to establish that.

Hopefully, all the Hacchi tribe would want to move.

But I understand that that is impossible.

The ones who will head for Ienith from this forest would only be the relatively younger generation.

Among the individuals that were born and grew up in this forest, many of them wish to remain living here.

While feeling the responsibility of taking along the younger generation, I motivated myself to definitely make it a success and we resumed our activities.

The Hacchi tribe chose the tree, Milfeene talked to the trees,

Dolan dug the soil and I collected them into the magic bag.

If Fornoir reacted to something, Kefin squad would move out and either Cathy or Lionel would accompany them.

Fornoir's scouting ability was proven and everyone admitted that it was excellent.

Nothing particularly eventful happened apart from that, although I felt slightly letdown, we completed our objective of harvesting the fruit trees and flowers.

“Well then, even though it might be slightly cramped, could the Hacchi tribe please ride in the carriage.”

I had the Hacchi tribe ride in the carriage and we departed for Ienith.

After coming to an agreement to the sale and purchase of produce and food, there wasn't any problem with the Hacchi tribe that came along.

However, I was told various insects would approach the sweet honey, even though they are one as well.

A voice called out from my side when such a fatherly gag was going through my mind.

“This time, it is still before evening so I don’t feel any gazes nya.”

“It would be good if this situation continued for long.”

“So, what do you intend to do tomorrow?”

“I intend to acquire magic stones from tomorrow onward so we’ll dive into the labyrinth. For the time being, I plan to use half a day but in case the labyrinth was conquered and the number of monsters decreased, we’ll stay over in the labyrinth.”

“That’s great. Then I’ll have to remember to tell Naria to prepare the food.”

“This time, there’s a map so it would be great if Luciel-sama tries fighting as well nya.”

“If such a situation arises.”

We had that conversation on the way back to Ienith.

I thought of the water spirit that nobody mentioned.

I recalled that when we previously came to the undeveloped forest, it said that originally I would not be able to come here.

This time, we did not come into contact with it and it might be

that it is difficult to encounter it, but in the end, without finding any answers, I arrived at Ienith.

We moved with the carriage directly to the underground 1st floor.

With this, the fact that we brought the Hacchi tribe along should not be discovered immediately.

“Thank you for enduring the journey, everyone from the Hacchi tribe. This is currently the underground 1st floor but we would be moving to the underground 3rd floor now so could you all please follow me?”

The Hacchi tribe was shocked at the sudden sight of a sky underground and there were some who were suspecting if they were fooled.

“Everyone would be even more shocked when you reach the underground 3rd floor.”

Thanks to Haniru-dono's words, they somehow followed my lead.

“This will be everyone's workplace and living quarters.”

I said after leading them to the underground 3rd floor.

Each and every one of them had a dazed look.

I guess it's normal to have such a reaction to a pseudo-sun underground together with fields.

“From now on, we will transplant the fruit trees and sow the seeds in the fields according to a planned schedule so let us all work together to create an environment that everyone can work at ease.”

The Hacchi tribe members were united in imagining how they would transplant the fruit trees from then on to create their own oasis.

Then, with my nickname remaining as Philosopher-sama, they all opened their mouths and spoke with one voice.

『Philosopher-sama, please take care of the Hacchi tribe.』

“Yes. Let's work hard.”

With a relaxed mood, we began transplanting.

Dolan transplanted the trees while Milfeene applied spirit magic to the trees to maintain their state.

A large amount of soil from the forest was placed in the magic bag as well so the tree transplantation went smoothly and Dolan

returned to his own workshop.

” ... Even though Dolan did such a splendid work, his motivation would not rise with such a small amount of magic stones.”

70 percent of the magic stones we acquired from the monsters we defeated in the undeveloped forest today was given to Dolan but I'm sure Dolan would not be satisfied with an amount of magic stones that did not reach 3 digits.

“Grandfather's mood is good when he goes to his workshop without saying a word.”

Paula reacted to my mutterings but looks like she was unsatisfied instead.

“Too many of the things that Paula and Rician want to develop are too exaggerated. First, think of items that are convenient for everyone.”

“I understand.”

Rician suddenly appeared behind me and left with Paula to her workshop.

“Those 2 seem to have a good friendship going.”

While watching the rejoicing Hacci tribe, I thought of the plan to

acquire the magic stones that we would need in the future from the labyrinth tomorrow.

The next day, I headed for the Labyrinth of Astray that the Flame Dragon was in, but there was when I first came into contact with the shadow of the Evil God.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 095: Abnormal Changes To The Labyrinth Of Astray

Yesterday after dinner, I signed employment contracts with all the members from the Hacchi tribes.

This time, instead of relying on verbal exchanges, we exchanged written pledges.

Number 1, regarding salary.

Lodgings and 3 meals are guaranteed, wages will follow the decision of the tribe leader.

Number 2, regarding going out.

Do not go out without permission. To always inform during emergency cases.

Number 3, regarding off-days.

You will be given a day of holiday once a week. However, until the internal affairs are settled, it is forbidden to go out.

Number 4, others.

To not incite problems even though the workplace would involve

various other races.

I'll first employ them for half a year, if the honey production business makes progress, I would change them to full employment.

There weren't any complaints about the contract.

They would immediately begin work from today onward.

Currently, I was heading toward the labyrinth to secure magic stones.

The members were Lionel, Cathy, Kefin squad, and Yarubo squad.

"Kefin, even though I granted permission last night, why is it that your squad came today instead of Baderu squad?"

They always rotated turns to escort me but he asked if it was alright to follow today and I allowed it.

However, since I was considerably free during the journey to the Labyrinth of Astray, I asked Kefin for the reason why they substituted.

"To be honest, a couple of people from Baderu squad are attracted to the slaves being taught by Naria-san so they asked me to let them protect the Healer's Guild if possible."

“Love affair huh~ ... It’s good to be young~. However, such feelings are important after all~...”

“Luciel-sama you sound like an old man nya. Luciel-sama should still only be 20 years old nya.”

“Although it’s somewhat too early for him to seem so mature, I heard that a lot of the church staffs are like that as well.”

When I spoke like an old man, Cathy tsukkomied me while Lionel lumped all the church staffs together.

I certainly read that if I stopped drinking Object X coupled with my job, I would begin aging faster ... Should I start drinking Object X again?

But before that, I should reply to the tsukkomi, right?

But, before I could deny it, the labyrinth came into view.

” ... What bad timing.”

I muttered.

Arriving at the labyrinth, I used the Key of the Hermit and had the horses and Fornoir as well enter the stables.

It might be better to explain the dangers of the labyrinth.

I decided to have a talk before entering the labyrinth.

” ... We'll ascend at one go to the original point on the map as the previous time. I think the monsters would have decreased but please advance while remaining cautious.” (TL: He didn't remove the central magic stone of the labyrinth so I don't know why he thinks that the labyrinth should have fewer monsters :/)

『Yes!』

We entered the Labyrinth of Astray.

” ... Is it only me that thinks that the monster numbers haven't decreased at all?”

Lionel and the others answered my question.

“No, there are more compared to the last time.”

“The numbers increased but the monsters that appear have only changed a slight bit nya.”

“Isn't that slight bit a problem?”

The instant we entered the labyrinth, compared to before when I was following along the search party, this time, many monsters appeared from the first floor.

“Usually once a labyrinth is conquered, it’s activity would weaken right?”

However, there wasn’t anyone with the knowledge to answer such a question.

This time, there were undead parts mixed within the monsters that appeared so I purified them as I remembered unpleasant memories.

I had no idea what the heck was happening but I began anticipating that we would be able to obtain our goal for the magic stones within a day with these numbers.

We proceeded on the first floor according to the map. It felt like it took roughly about 5 minutes.

All the member could easily fight monsters of this caliber while progressing.

The monsters have changed but thankfully the labyrinth paths did not change and there wasn’t any problem ascending up the floors.

We repeatedly battled and collected magic stones and after about

1 hour we arrived at the 10th floor.

“Although I think we won’t have any trouble, proceed with safety in mind.”

Everyone smiled at my insistence to prioritize safety and nodded.

2 Red Lizardmen and 1 undead Red Lizardman appeared in the boss room.

I immediately used purification magic to purify the undead Red Lizard while Kefin squad and Yarubo squad attacked with full force and defeated the other 2 with the same speed.

“As expected, your 2 squads have been training yourselves.”

As I praised Kefin squad and Yarubo squad, Lionel and Cathy both looked slightly dissatisfied.

I did not feel the need to make the effort to ask them since I judged that they most likely wanted to fight after all, so I ascended the stairs after I praised Kefin and the others.

” ... For some reason, isn’t the number of undead increasing as we go up?”

“It seems that way. However, their speed decreases after they turn into undead so it seems like a good place for Luciel-sama to

gain combat experience.”

“I’ve been doing my best but I haven’t even raised a single level since entering the labyrinth?”

“Since you defeated the Red Dragon, obviously the monsters around here would not level you up nya.”

It seems like it would not be easy to level up from now on, should I drink Object X?

No, if I pile up the specks I should be able to hear the level up slogan.

Both thoughts were antagonistic.

The 20th-floor boss was 2 Red Orcs and a larger Fire Wolf but I didn’t have a chance to step forward.

Lionel slashed the Red Orc, Cathy decapitated the Fire Wolf, and Kefin squad and Yarubo squad’s 14 member consecutive attacks gradually piled damage and defeated the remaining monster.

“There should have been an easier way to defeat it right?”

I believe that each of them definitely have the ability to defeat a Red Orc alone.

They are stronger than me so I do wish that that's true ...

“We were confirming our cooperation. Since the monsters would gradually become stronger from now on, we would hate to be a burden like before.”

Kefin said and all the other members nodded.

“There's no problem if that's the case. Since its safety first.”

I smiled and further aimed for a higher floor.

“Despite all that, it's commendable that you have the motivation to continue climbing further up.”

Lionel asked as he was climbing up the stairs to the 25th floor.

“Even though I would hate to enter the labyrinth alone, I can rely on a certain battle maniac here. Moreover, if there are more magic stones from stronger monsters, the number of magic stones we require would decrease right?”

I joked as we climbed up the stairs.

A Fire Bear and Wraith appeared in the 30th-floor boss room.

I reflexively triggered purification magic the instant I saw the

Wraith.

The Wraith looked like it was melting and it turned into a magic stone.

I checked if there were any members with abnormal conditions but it was alright this time.

Several people from Kefin squad suffered minor damage from the Fire Bear but it was to the extent that it can be said to be a complete victory.

Then, we took a lunch break there.

“That monster just now was definitely a Wraith. I remember Jasuan-dono said that the 40th floor boss for this labyrinth was a Chimera right?”

“He did say that nya. Leaving that aside, Luciel-sama is too amazing to be able to easily annihilate a Wraith like that nya.”

“That certainly was amazing. As expected of one who climbed up the ranks to an S-rank healer at that young age.”

” ... Wraiths are small fries to me. Since the abnormal condition magic that the Wraiths release is totally ineffective towards me ... However I was close to dying once.”

“Why nya?”

“I would have been fine alone, but my companions around me suffered from the confused condition so I suffered attacks from them. Even if the Wraith was defeated, the confused state would continue so I could not stop my companions until I applied 「Recover」 on them.”

“I see. So that’s why you triggered your magic so quickly.”

Lionel touched his beard as he thought.

“Naria went through great pains to make the food this time so let’s eat.”

After I took out the food from the magic bag, I remembered that I forgot to apply purification magic to the room so I ordered them to begin eating first as I begin purifying the room.

Not a single person died among the people I dived into the Labyrinth of Tribulations with, none of the Holy Paladins or Priest Knights quit as well but

I shook off my feelings that were becoming gloomier and went to eat my delicious lunch.

For some reason, no undead appeared from the 31st floor.

I felt a touch of uncertainty about this labyrinth but we reached the 40th floor without encountering any bitter battles.

Then, Kefin spoke.

“That’s weird, they’re not around.”

“They?”

“S-rank ... Luciel-sama, previously, there were adventurers who made this point their base. They were sweepers that hunted adventurers but it’s weird that they are not here!”

Kefin was slightly agitated and Lionel admonished him. He gradually calmed down.

Seeing Kefin act like that, I had a very bad premonition.

An active labyrinth that was supposed to have calmed down and undead monsters that should not appear.

Adventurers called sweepers that hunt adventurers that should originally be here but are not.

“Do you all remember that I said that I did not take the large magic stone on the 51st-floor?”

Everyone nodded.

“It’s possible that the sweepers touched that magic stone.”

“But I don’t think they possess any blessings.”

“The Flame Dragon said that I could only enter the 51st floor once. If that’s the case, then it would not be weird if the magic stone was transferred to the 50th-floor boss room.”

” ... Then you mean ...”

“There’s a high chance that the sweepers took that magic stone, but my instincts or my luck told me that I must never take that so I did not take it.”

... Going with the flow of the story, it would either be a new enemy or in the worst case, the Evil God would reveal its hand.

Here, I was forced to choose between the 2, to proceed or to turn back.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Even though it’s supposed to be an internal affairs arc, I’m sorry for the derailment.

Chapter 096: Shadow Of The Evil God

Everybody's gaze gathered on me.

They'll most likely obey any choice I make ...

If it follows the report then a Chimera should be in this boss room. However, this time, there is a possibility that there would be undead hidden within as well.

I absolutely do not want to head towards the jaws of death and neither do I want to order everyone to go towards it as well.

"... I expect a Chimera to be inside. There's also the possibility of a Wraith as well ..."

I couldn't come to a decision so I asked for everyone's advice.

Ultimately, I will not force the responsibility onto anybody else, but I could not bring myself to gamble their lives or impose my will on them.

"I believe normally you would have withdrawn here but ... is there anything that you are hung up on?"

Lionel looked at me with an earnest gaze and looked like he was trying to anticipate my thoughts.

“The truth is, I want to go back ... but, I have a feeling that ... if we leave the labyrinth in this state, the labyrinth might grow even more impregnable and the monsters would become stronger. I can't say this for certain without entering and taking a look but that's the kind of feeling I have right now ... that's all.”

“Then, let's proceed nya.”

“If Luciel-sama thinks so then we can only follow.”

“Luciel-sama, please make your decision based on your intuition. Even if you give the decision to withdraw, none of us would be troubled.”

Cathy chose to proceed, Kefin and the other will follow my decision while Lionel used words that he would normally never use. (TL: Remember, Lionel is a battle maniac so he will never want to willingly withdraw hahaha)

” ... We'll immediately retreat if I believe it is dangerous. We'll force the door ajar using a log. Immediately inform me if you suffer from abnormal states due to attacks from the Chimera or even if you suspect it.”

『Yes!』

Thus, I decided to proceed.

The moment we opened the door to the 40th-floor boss room and

entered, I took out a log from the stock of logs in my magic bag and used it as a stopper such that the door would not close.

“Let’s go.”

The instant we moved toward the center, the dimly lit room brightened, I was prepared to cast purification magic the instant undead appeared but only 5 Fire Sabre-toothed Tigers were reflected in my eyes.

It was slightly anticlimactic but one tiger was my limit with my ability.

Of course, instead of defeating it, I waited for Lionel and the others to come to my rescue. However.

Unlike the previous time, Dolan, Paula, and Baderu squad weren’t here.

Due to that, the Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger captured in my eyes opened its mouth widely and came flying towards me. I was caught off guard and my mind was in chaos, maybe it was by instinct but before I knew it, I had taken out the Holy Dragon Spear from my magic bag.

Thanks to my instinctual act, the Holy Dragon Spear skewered the center of the mouth of the Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger.

The Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger’s movements only completely

stopped when there was only 30cm distance between me and the Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger.

I was extremely frightened at the thought that the outcome would have been different if I was but a second late, but since it deliberately opened its mouth and flew toward me, I had a feeling ... that I was under the continued protection of Great Luck-sensei.

After confirming that the Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger turned into a magic stone, I turned my sight to the other battles and Cathy and Lionel had already finished their battles. Kefin squad was still in combat but they were on the offensive and were on the cusp of concluding it.

“To have defeated it alone, as expected of a Dragon Slayer nya.”

“He has already completely exceeded the realm of a healer.”

The 2 of them grinned as they returned as my escort.

“You’ve beaten me black and blue every day so you should know my ability.”

“If it’s no holds barred, I think Luciel-sama is already decently strong nya.”

“Actual combat is the inherent strength of a person. If you diligently persevere for another 10 years, it would become pretty interesting.”

I did not ask what aspect would become interesting.

Because some would say that that's called a flag ...

“Yes yes. Nevertheless, considering that no undead appeared after the 31st floor, do you think that the labyrinth is rapidly recovering its strength or that it is remaking itself ...”

The smiles on the faces of the 2 of them disappeared after listening to my words.

The 2 of them were definitely thinking about the same thing.

“Then, how should we proceed?”

“As our original plan, we will recover magic stones ... and after seeing the 50th-floor boss, decide to return using the magic circle or return by walking back.”

“Understood nya. Ah, the battle there should be ending soon nya.”

During our conversation, Kefin squad made full use of their cooperation in numbers to draw the fight to a conclusion.

“Compared to some time back, their battle outcome was completely certain.”

“They’ve been diligently doing what they can so the result of that is starting to show nya.”

The 2 of them looked like they felt the growth of Kefin squad.

” ... To diligently do what I can huh.”

As I posed those words to myself, I conveyed to them that we were ascending further up.

I first healed the injuries of Kefin squad and we had a brief rest before we ascended the stairs.

The undead did not appear after the 41st floor as well.

The number of monsters was slightly more compared to the previous time but because we had already completed the map, we did not need to spread our forces thin and we advanced via the shortest route.

We arrived in front of the 50th-floor boss room without experiencing any difficult battles at all.

It was 5 hours after we departed from the 40th-floor boss room.

” ... So ominous nya.”

” ... It’s a lot more concentrated compared to the previous time we were here.”

“To have miasma leaking out in such concentrations until it is visible means that I can begin purifying from here?”

“Yeah.”

I took out the food for dinner and left it to Kefin squad to do the remaining preparations while I chanted purification magic with a mental image of the interior of the boss room.

After chanting purification magic countless times, I proceeded to draw a mental image of the interior of the boss room to install a magic circle chant to trigger 「Sanctuary Circle」 and 「Purification」, and the miasma emission ceased.

“Today I’ll continue to use 「Purification」here and we’ll take a peek into the boss room tomorrow. If the Red Dragon appears, this time, there are no guarantees that I would be able to win.”

“Well then, after our dinner, we’ll trouble Luciel-sama to purify the boss room. If you can place Object X here, Cathy and I will bring Kefin and the others to collect magic stones.”

“Okay. I’ll go have some sleep when I have 20% magical power remaining. Everyone don’t push yourselves too hard and substitute each other so that you can sleep earlier. Since tomorrow might be

even more hectic than today.”

『Yes!』

After placing Object X at the passage to seal the entry of monsters, I draw an image of cleanly purifying the boss room and began chanting.

Cathy and Kefin squad went to sleep while Lionel and Yarubo squad went to defeat monsters.

I touched the door to the boss room with my hand while meditating, hoping that the purification would penetrate into the door and continued to activate my magic.

Then, I unintentionally noticed something.

In the past, I always used magic while maintaining an image but now I don't seem to do so anymore?

I further thought, was I beginning to have misconceptions because I was gradually getting more proficient?

I asked and answered myself and it certainly seems so.

My Holy attribute magic could reach such high levels because I could see my proficiency values.

Of course, I did put in the effort as well, but after having such thoughts, I laughed at myself as I considered that I'm not a skilled person after all.

When I departed from Ienith, I did decide to visit Meratoni once to retrain myself under Instructor Broad for a week.

“I still don't have the knack of commanding people even now. I've got to try even harder.”

I murmured as my magical power reached 20% remaining and I took out the Angel Pillow from my magic bag before going to sleep.

When I woke up, there was no sign of Lionel and the others but Cathy and the lightly wounded Kefin squad was around.

“Sorry for only waking up now. I'll heal you guys with 「Area Heal」 so gather around.”

After applying 「Area Heal」, I took the chance to reapply 「Area Barrier」 again as well and confirmed with them the current situation.

“How long has it been since I've slept and around when did you guys return?”

“We switched after 3 hours and now Lionel and the others are out for their second round.”

“If that’s the case, then I’ve slept for about 5 hours. Are there any changes to the labyrinth?”

“Nope nya. Although I feel that the number of monsters is slightly higher nya.”

It means the labyrinth is slightly increasing in activity after all ... taking into consideration that undead did not appear since the 31st floor, it would be bad if it continues to further increase in activity.

“Okay. Then you guys can have some sleep. Or are you guys hungry and would like something to eat?”

None of them gave any objection to having food.

“I’ll wake you guys up when Lionel and the others return so it’s alright if everyone go have some sleep.”

My magical power had completely recovered so I continued to apply purification until I had 80% left.

As I was purifying, I heard the sounds of a sword fight.

I was closing my eyes while I applied purification so was it Lionel and the others? I pondered but if that’s the case then they would be fighting each other ... I anxiously opened my eyes to see Lionel and the others obediently return.

As expected, they suffered from light wounds except for Lionel so I used 「Area Heal」to heal them before asking about the sound of sword fighting just now.

“I heard sounds of sword fighting just now, are you guys alright?”

“Ha? We didn’t hear any such sound though?”

Lionel had a confused expression.

Perhaps the sound of sword fighting came from within the boss room?

If that’s the case, then the only thing I could think of was that there might be a new floor boss similar to the Specter Knight.

“Lionel, how many magic stones did you all collect?”

“If we count in those collected by Cathy and the others as well, we have about 200 of them.”

We had acquired roughly 1000 magic stones when we reached here.

Adding in these 200, we have collected 60% of the magic stones we currently need.

There might not have been a need to worry about procuring it.

“We’ll open the door to the boss room 6 hours later. If we observe the inside and it looks impossible, we’ll retreat and toss it to the Adventurer’s Guild. I’ve decided to not be reckless. Please stop me if my judgement is wrong.”

“Yes. I will absolutely protect Luciel-sama’s life.”

I patted the shoulder of Lionel who was acting strange and told him to get some sleep.

I did not wake everyone until they woke up themselves to let them recover their stamina.

After breakfast, I told all the members the same words I said to Lionel and I opened the door to the boss room.

The sweeper adventurers were present but

“They’re turning into undead nya.”

There weren’t any monsters like the Red Dragon.

However, what bugged me was that the magic circle wasn’t present as well.

“S-rank healer~! Save me~”

It would be an understatement to call them departed souls, their pale white expressions with flashing red eyes reminded me of the Specter Knights in the Labyrinth of Tribulations.”

Then, I heard bellowing voices.

“Those are no longer human! Luciel-sama, the only choices are to either purify them or to cut them down.”

“Miasma is being emitted from their bodies nya, they’re already monsters nya.”

After Lionel said that, he shortened the distance to the sweeper adventurers as if telling them to not approach me and everyone else also followed suit and closed the distance.

My body was trembling. If I used purification magic here and they died then wouldn’t it equate me to a murderer? Just that thought caused my body to tremble and made me nauseous.

“Aren’t you an S-rank healer? Help me!”

“Gyahahahaha. Kill, Kill, Kill.”

“Die~ die!”

“To use us as a sacrifice, unforgivable, Jasuan, S-rank healer.”

“Our bodies would lose our soul.”

There were some deranged adventurers but I felt that they were alive and were conscious.

“「High Heal」”

I released 「High Heal」at the nearest adventurer and that adventurer screamed.

“Gugyaaaaaaaaa!”

Listening to the same sound made by undead under healing magic, I apologized in my heart as I applied purification magic at full strength.

Because Lionel and Cathy were struggling and Kefin and the others were being forced into a corner in such a short period of time.

I gave up on interacting with them and prioritized the lives of myself and my companions.

The pale light drowned out the dark purple miasma, wrapping around the sweeper adventurers who gave out death throes before

their figures turned into magic stones.

Within that, the man that Lionel was struggling against cried out something that violently shook me as he was disappearing.

“Unforgivable ... to be the sacrifice for the Evil God ... you bastards will become the Evil God’s sacrificial lambs as well ~”

It felt like his voice remained in my ears.

After their physical bodies disappeared, only magic stones and the sweeper adventurers’ cards and equipment remained.

“Do not touch the magic stones of the adventurers including the magic stone in the center!”

I ordered.

After everything disappeared, a large and beautiful magic stone appeared in the center but I judged that it was dangerous.

In addition, the magic stones converted from the adventurers were small but it felt like they had an alluring beauty that could not be compared with the other magic stones.

After collecting everything except the magic stones, I applied purification magic and 「Recover」 on all the members and also healing magic to the injured.

My body continued to tremble even when I was taking action.

Trembling at the thought of the Evil God that possess the power to seal the dragons and turn adventurers into undead.

That shivering did not subside even after we rode the magic circle that appeared after a brief moment and flew to the entrance of the labyrinth.

However, after basking in the sunlight, I felt my blood gradually circulate to my stiffened body and the trembling subsided.

Nobody mentioned about my trembling.

Fornoir who exited from the stables after I used the Key of the Hermit looked at my expression and directly bit my face.

“Ouch ouch ouch, Fornoir it hurts!”

“Bururu.”

Get a grip! I felt like she was trying to convey that.

After I was warned by Fornoir, I tried looking at everyone and they were looking at me, worried.

I have to pull myself together. Lionel did not address everyone because it was not his job but mine ...

I took a deep breath and switched gears, calling out to everyone.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 097: Removal Of The Slums

After we exited from within the labyrinth and returned to the surface, we headed toward the Adventurer's Guild instead of heading back to the Healer's Guild.

I had Kefin and the others return first to take care of Fornoir and the horses as well as report that we have returned from the labyrinth.

As usual, upon entering the Adventurer's Guild, I informed the receptionist and was brought to the guildmaster's room.

“What can we do for you today?”

Jias-dono spoke before Jasuan-dono who was beside him so I gave a brief reply with what had transpired.

“The labyrinth was rapidly regaining strength ... or it might be easier to understand if I say that the labyrinth was in an activated state.”

“Wha!”

“And what's current situation?”

As Jias-dono was in shock, this time, it was Jasuan-dono who leaned forward to ask about the labyrinth in detail.

“I’ll begin explaining from the conclusion, we once again conquered the labyrinth. However, I do not believe that everything was solved with just that.”

“Even though ... you’ve conquered the labyrinth once again?”

” ... Firstly, within the activated labyrinth, in addition to the previously encountered monsters, there were new undead type monsters mixed within as well.”

” ... Please continue.”

I placed the adventurer cards I got from the adventurers in the 50th-floor boss room on the table.

“They entered the 50th-floor boss room where the Red Dragon was ... and they were turned into undead.”

” ... It doesn’t look like this is some bad joke.”

“I wouldn’t have come all the way here to report if it was. There was a large amount of miasma leaking out of the 50th-floor boss room. I fear that they fell prey to that.”

” ... I’ve never heard of such a trap.”

“One of the undead adventurer cursed me and Jasuan-dono to

become the sacrifices for the Evil God before I purified him.”

『Wha! Evil God!』

The 2 of them were surprised by the mention of the Evil God.

“Isn’t there any way to calm the labyrinth?”

“I don’t know. However, I was wondering if the large magic stone that appeared after we defeated the boss at the highest floor was the cause for the activation of the labyrinth.”

“You mean the dungeon core?”

“Yeah. That large magic stone can be called the nucleus of the labyrinth. It might be that this happened because they carelessly touched it. It’s not something I am capable of handling so I came to the Adventurer’s Guild to discuss with the 2 of you.”

” ... So you came to give heads up?”

“Yes. Adventurers live by fighting so I cannot stop them. That’s why I leave it up to the discretion of you 2.”

For a short moment after I said that, the room was dominated by silence.

It was Jias-dono who broke the silence.

” ... Thank you for the information. We cannot come up with an immediate answer for this incident. We might have to consult Luciel-sama when the time comes so thank you in advance.”

“Understood. Let us pray that the labyrinth will decrease in activity.”

“Yes. We will deliver it to the Healer’s Guild if we receive any information about changes to the labyrinth.”

To be honest, it was not a suggestion that I appreciate but I properly accepted it for now.

“Thank you. I look forward to working with you.”

Thus, the conversation regarding the activation of the labyrinth ended and we returned to the Healer’s Guild.

Underneath the Healer’s Guild, under Dolan’s guidance, Baderu squad was constructing prefabricated dwellings.

“This is?”

“The priest knights told me that they would suffice for security during the day so they lend them to me.”

“That’s good. I was feeling bad to have left it all to Dolan alone.”

“Don’t say that. It is boring to only construct the same thing but you do allow me to make that specific item.”

” ... Don’t overwork yourself. There is a possibility that we would not be able to collect magic stones in the future so I hope that you will not waste any.”

” ... I will handle it carefully.”

Later, after I checked on Dolan’s progress, I returned to the guildmaster’s room and contacted the Pope with the communication bead.

『I understand your point. I will investigate about the Evil God here as well. Also, I trust that you will send honey over once it can be produced in Ienith.』

“Of course.”

After cutting the communication, I sighed.

“To think that the Pope would mention honey every time, it might be a considerably rare good.”

Thinking about that, I began writing a letter to find out about the prices of honey and sugar.

After then, we explored the undeveloped forest and the Labyrinth of Astray every week.

While investigating the ecology of the undeveloped forest, we procured materials and searched for new types of monsters. Also, relieved that the labyrinth was beginning to calm down, I committed my strength in securing magic stones.

Then, in the blink of an eye, it was time for the monthly meeting.

“This time, I will be facilitating the meeting.”

Ririaldo-dono was the facilitator for this time’s meeting.

The meeting progressed smoothly without any particular problem.

“Next, would be the issue raised by Luciel-dono ... the problem about the wages. Forens-dono.”

“Due to the considerable disparity in wages between each race, races who exploited money by mixing in true and false reports were found. The increase or decrease in salary is still in discussion while the races that performed fraud will be asked to return the stolen money or will face sanctions.”

“Yo ... you will not disclose the races involved?”

“If this incident is leaked out to the public, it will cause great chaos. Which is why, I leave it to the representatives to either individually return the money or risk being shaved off from the next monthly meeting.”

Said Forens-dono.

This person, he might try to confuse you during business negotiations, but he would most likely never ever commit fraud.

He has a forcefulness that makes one feel that way.

“Th ... then next up would be the Healing District which would also be by Forens-dono.”

“Yes. Regarding the Healing District, the Tiger beastmen and Dragonewts have proposed to shave off some of their land as well as some of my Fox beastmen land and build it on the resulting vacant land. Discussion about employment will be done next.”

“Do you have any comments?”

Ririaldo-san looked at me and asked and I shook my head.

That’s because I heard of it from Forens-dono beforehand.

“Well then, this is regarding the question raised by Luciel-dono

the previous time, about the rumors of the cliff to the west of Ienith. Souther-dono.”

“I apologize but we could not find the adventurer in question. We would like to continue investigating.”

“Any questions?”

I shook my head.

“Finally, regarding the progress of the slums district, Luciel-dono.”

Their gazes gathered on me.

Their eyes told me that they would immediately bite if I lied about the progress.

It was those kind of gazes.

I laughed and told them what could be said now.

“Yes. Currently, the progress rate is 30%. If the slum residents join the construction of the Healing District, we would be able to dismantle the slums in one go.”

“Even if you mention breaking the slums down, there isn’t any

evidence of it happening.”

“Even if they are half-breeds, they are still precious residents of Ienith right?”

“I absolutely do not see any way we can establish relations with them.”

Well, I did expect dissatisfaction.

“I see. Please follow me out to the garden for a while.”

Nobody stopped my sudden move to exit to the garden and we exited the mansion.

“Currently, we are building the dwellings for the adventurers.”

I took out the building from my magic bag.

“This is the building prepared for the adventurers.”

I said and the representatives’ eyes were all wide in shock staring at the extracted building.

As might be expected, they did not think that such a huge item could be placed into the magic bag.

“We are currently constructing buildings similar to this as well as the school so I hope that the doubt is cleared.”

I smiled and there weren't any complaints.

They may have wanted to pick on the newbie whose work had not progressed at all but people are weak towards visible results.

Even if there was only one house constructed, the stronger the impact at the time of revealing it, the more people will believe in it.

Until the next monthly meeting, what conditions should I employ the half-breed beastmen from the slums with?

Keeping in mind the possibility of receiving interference, intimidation or blackmail, I began formulating a strategy. (TL: tl;dr. The pure-breeds discriminate against the half-breeds and the half-breeds end up staying in the slums. Luciel wants to help them and plans to hire them.)

But, 2 months passed with nothing like that happening at all.

I heard from the boss of the slums district, Dollarstar-san, that they were properly receiving their wages and that unlike before, they have proper rest days as well so I was perplexed.

“It's best to be careful. Times like this is the sign of something to come.”

“I understand. By the way, how is that proceeding along?” (TL: Most likely the talk about relocating the slum residents)

“It’s done. I finished all the preparations.”

“Okay. By the time you return today, the slums district would have disappeared.”

” ... What’s this? I didn’t think that I would feel attached to such a place.”

“It is best to finely break down everything when you determine that the item is no longer needed.”

“I’ll entrust it to you. S-rank healer Luciel-sama.”

“Yes. I’ll do my best.”

Almost all of the slum district residents, including Dollarstar-san, moved toward the healing district.

The only people remaining were Kefin and the others who were guiding us, on this day, with Dolan’s earth manipulation, Paula’s 5 meter-class golem and my purification magic and magic bag, the slums district disappeared.

There were some among the slum district residents who broke

down crying.

While almost all the non-slum district residents were stunned when they looked at the scene.

There were also many who feared me for executing the action determined within the representative meeting without hesitation.

The next day, the sight that made the eyes of the people who fear me jump out of their sockets was the sight of former slum residents beginning to live in their new houses with smiles on their faces.

Originally, I was supposed to have them stay underground for about 3 months.

However, there was a person who disputed that decision.

That person was Naria.

“It will take a considerably long time to change the populace’s impression once it has been sullied. If you do that, no matter how much planning you say you’re going to do after that, Luciel-sama’s bad reputation would be spread throughout the lands.”

“That might be so, but if we concern ourselves with that then wouldn’t the plan not work?”

“No, rather than spread bad rumors about Luciel-sama who rebuilt the slums district, there should be more races that want to become your ally and benefit as well.”

“But, then there might be people who are not convinced ...”

“There would be, I believe. However, Luciel-sama did not say a single word of lie right?”

” ... Yeah.”

“Then it’s alright. This could only be achieved because it is Luciel-sama anyway. Even if there is a backlash, as long as there is an even greater benefit, people will want to become your ally.”

Naria gave a lonely expression at the end of it but it only stayed for a split second before she looked over and nodded. (TL: Most likely it reminded her of the betrayal Lionel faced.)

The next day, I was called to an urgent representatives meeting.

There, the 8 races were gathered and the barrage began.

“Luciel-dono, what is the meaning of that! Why are the slum residents living there!?”

Unusually, the first person to fire the shot was the dragonewt Jack-dono.

He is friendly to the fact that I am a strong individual and possess divine protection but he has a strong prejudice towards race.

“That’s right. Didn’t you say that you would remove the slums district?”

The next to speak was a tiger beastman but they should not have the right to speak in the first place, as expected, he still butted in.

“What are you thinking, to let half-breed beastmen live in such splendid buildings.”

Seemed like the dog beastman Sebec-dono could not bear with the fact that the half-breed beastmen were living in a better house than the one he was living in.

“Isn’t this a fraud! You said that it was to attract adventurers.”

The cat beastman Kyasral-dono was the same as Sebec-dono.

However, in his case, the words he said and the thoughts he had were reversed, he was appealing towards me for something but I could not understand.

“We would like to hear what were you thinking to do such a thing.”

The rabbit beastman Ririaldo-dono snorted.

There's no helping it if he resents me when the fact that I have been making plans behind the scenes since I became a representative comes to light.

However, within that concentrated barrage, there were questions thrown in.

“Luciel-dono, can that be created so easily?”

“Perhaps, from my observation, you took the whole city into consideration?”

” ... No way?! Is that why the bear beastmen are so spirited lately ...”

The questions came from the wolf beastman Olga-dono, the fox beastman Forens-dono and the bear beastman-loving Souther-dono.

I slowly raised my gripped right fist and spoke as I raised my index finger.

“Firstly, I promised to crush the slums district. I have crushed the dirty slums district and it has now become a beautiful cityscape.”

Looking at everyone, I raised my middle finger to form a peace sign and continued.

“Secondly, with relation to attracting adventurers, I attracted individuals from the slums district who possess the strength to become adventurers. Without the slums and with a place to live in with improved security, it should become even easier to attract more people.”

“That is just a play on words. Why did you give the likes of half-breed beastmen new homes.”

“That is a different topic. 2 months ago, didn’t I say that the half-breed beastmen are precious residents as well? From now on, I intend to make a splendid city that is easy to live in.”

I talked from beginning to end with a smile pasted on my face.

This time, I properly role-played the situation beforehand and thought of the content of several questions that would be asked so I was calm.

Then, Forens-dono spoke.

“Luciel-sama, was that the reason why you purchased the slums district?”

“No, it’s not. Or rather, it wasn’t, until you all were so uncooperative, so I did what I could within the scope that I was

capable of.”

It looked like the opposing faction wanted to speak but Forens-dono made a move quicker.

The amazing aspect of him was his ability to make a profit and to make preliminary calculations, if it wasn't profitable he could listen to the story well and make prompt decisions.

” ... The school doesn't seem to be complete yet?”

“That is currently under construction.”

“I see. I can hardly wait.”

As usual, Olga-dono's mind was totally filled with Shiela-chan.

“Why is it that you have a good relationship with the bear beastmen lately?”

“Their race have a low population and are tired. So I merely offered them treatment and food.”

Food by the name of honey.

“I see. Food huh ...”

Souther-dono was lost in thought with that and although the individuals who verbally attacked during the representative meeting were not convinced, since they could not think of a plan to improve it, the topic was left open.

This time, I must definitely prepare to face interference.

I thought about that as I was returning from the leaders mansion.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 098: Echoing Roar In Ienith

The day after the representative meeting ended, the dog beastman Sebec-dono and cat beastman Kyasral-dono bowed their heads together.

“Even if you tell me that, I can’t do so immediately. I first have to construct the school so it will have to wait till after then.”

They came forward with a request to readjust their land and renew their buildings.

“Yeah. That is alright. Of course, we would not have you do it for free.”

“Races like ours are deemed as inferior races by the wolf and tiger beastmen but that is only applicable to combat.”

“The dog beastmen have a greater ability of concentration compared to the wolf beastmen and we absolutely keep our promises.”

“The cat beastmen are better at reading the atmosphere compared to the tiger beastmen and we are not a lazy race.”

“In the future, if Luciel-dono, no, Luciel-sama have any orders, we will stand by your side so we’ll be in your care from now on.”

“The cat beastmen will be in your care as well.”

“It’s alright to not attach -sama. Please wait for the time when we discuss if the previously mentioned topic will be attempted.”

After I said that, Sebec-dono’s tail was wagging and Kyasral-dono’s tail was standing at attention and slightly swaying when they left.

Seemed like they were delighted ...

“In the end, even though nothing was decided, they still went back.”

“Luciel-sama is quite a villain nya.”

Lionel and Cathy laughed while saying disrespectful words.

It’s not like I intentionally made them misunderstand, this time, the fault was not on me.

I’m open to negotiation but no agreement was said and even that would be a verbal agreement at best so it would be inconsequential.

“The priority now is to not be bound by anything we say. Cathy, what’s the update to the task I assigned to you?”

“The horse, elephant, cow and monkey beastmen were all skeptical nya. Even so, I convinced them nya.”

“That’s great. Then, continue with the negotiations.”

“Understood nya.”

Cathy left the room.

Previously, I sent out letters to Instructor Broad, Garba-san, and Grulga-san and had multiple exchanges but it was written that if Garba-san moved it would become a reign of terror so I should weather through the incidents unless I am in the utmost pinch.

However, 4 copies of a letter were enclosed and it was written that if I deliver those to the races that were chased out of Ienith, they would most likely become my allies.

Under Cathy’s guidance, Kefin and the others split up to meet up with the various races.

Somehow it looks like everything proceeded smoothly but just how much influence that man still possess in this country, I was too scared to ask and felt that it was better to not ask ...

“However, we just barely made it in time. We were in such a situation.”

“Yeah. Although you still can’t be careless, I believe the risk of your life being targeted has decreased slightly even if you go out.”

The mental relief was great since we no longer had to be cautious of arrows from the centaurs.

“All that’s left is if the honey could be produced smoothly ...”

“Haniru-dono said that it would be impossible to increase it any further.”

“I see ... I received reports that it arrived at the Pope but I had no idea that its scarcity value was so high that a single cup of honey could be exchanged for gold.”

“Looks like it is not something commoners could eat.”

“I would never have imagined that it would be more expensive than sugar.”

The Hacchi tribe was rare in the first place and it appears that they were worked as slaves in the past.

Isn’t it the same now? I tried asking Haniru-dono but he replied with a smile.

“This environment where we won’t be attacked by anyone, where we can collect plenty of honey in clear air, it is an absolute

heaven to create offspring.”

Apparently, the undeveloped forest rarely saw any adventurers entering so their enemies, the monsters, were so numerous that they could not nurture their young in peace.

Here, they could nurture their young and get permission to return to the undeveloped forest so currently there wasn't a single Hacchi tribe individual who held any dissatisfaction.

I was glad to hear that.

It was written along with the letter from Grulga-san about the demand for honey and the market price.

The 100ml worth of honey I passed to the bear beastman Brian previously would cost a gold coin at the very least.

“Nevertheless, we still have stock so when would you sell them?”

“Once we sell it there's a possibility that the Hacchi tribe would be targeted. I was thinking of doing so during the time we unload the fruits made in the underground 3rd floor into the market ...”

” ... Forens-dono's expression when he saw the fruits was certainly dangerous.”

“It was like that just with the fruits you know? If we unload the

honey ... even thinking of it makes me fearful.”

When I offered to share a portion of the profit from the underground produce with the merchant Forens-dono, he was so surprised that he was stunned and muttered.

“With products like these, you could regain your initial capital with just 3 years.”

His eyes were terrifying to me and I didn’t hear his mutterings but Cathy heard it.

While feeling that it would be bad to anger such a person, my various worries began.

“So when would you sell them?”

” ... To be honest, I only know about the amount and nothing else so I would like to think about it slightly more ... once the school is completed it would most likely become busy as well ... changing to a different topic, talking about the school, I was thinking of having XXX become the school’s principal.”

” XXX? I see. I also believe he/she is qualified.”

“Okay. Although there were many things to take into consideration, it’s great that it is gradually taking shape.”

“Yeah. When the healing district is complete, it would be about time your term as Ienith’s representative ends so isn’t it just right?”

Lionel seems quite happy.

I did tell Lionel that I would head to Meratoni once so he’s definitely looking forward to having a rematch with Instructor Broad.

” ... So do you think we would be attacked?”

“I can’t give you a definite answer. Though, it wouldn’t be strange if the tiger beastmen themselves already made a move ...”

“Hah~ it only seems like they would make a move but they haven’t. What will happen during the expedition tomorrow to the forest?”

“We’ll pay careful attention.”

“Thank you.”

In reality, we were already in possession of lumber and magic stones such that we no longer need to go for material procurement.

But because of the 3 big spenders we have in relation to magic stones, the rate it decreased was amazingly fast.

However, it's not like I gave them free reign to create anything they want, I had them create magic tools with the concept that it will be usable even by beastmen, if it turns out well then I'll let them create one item that they like.

Those were actually a considerable hit in Ienith.

I was selling them to Forens-dono.

Because of that, Forens-dono returned to the usual smiling Forens-dono instead of the bloodshot eyes Forens-dono ...

The problems that occurred up until then were only the beginning and more problems would surface when we reveal ourselves later so I completely forgot about the existence of something I should have born in mind.

Then, that became a large problem.

That happened when another 3 months had passed and we were on the verge of beginning to assemble the school.

The sound of an explosion that resonated deep within as if a giant ball of fireworks were set off resounded throughout Ienith.

Looking toward the direction of the sound, I saw crimson flames and black smoke rise into the air.

” ... That’s the healing district, right? Lionel, Cathy, come with me. Dolan and Paula will be on standby but move according to your own judgement. Kefin and others, the next target might be here or the Healer’s Guild. Please guard the locations depending on the situation.”

I ran off without hearing the replies.

The healing district was in simple terms something like a general hospital, a facility such that one can come and go easily between the Healer’s Guild and the Herbalist Guild.

It was currently under construction but close to completion so instead of only half-breed beastmen, various other beastmen were entering and exiting.

I could imagine that a considerable amount of people were caught in the explosion.

Furthermore, in my previous life, I heard that even without external injuries, in cases of fire, needless to say about external burns, but even internal burns would lead to respiratory failure or in the worst case, death if it is not treated well.

Currently, I am the only one who can help them.

Energy surged through my body with that thought.

Onlookers were blocking the road but I yelled out and passed through.

“Move it~!! You’re in the way of treatment~!”

In response to my voice, a path opened.

There, Lionel stood in front of me and Cathy was behind me in the usual formation.

When it became the usual formation, I noticed that I was getting flustered.

I took in a deep breath as I ran and saw that there were people with serious burns that were blown out of the building.

“Anybody around, tell me the place where the injured are! 「High Heal」.”

I properly healed the burns and scratches of the people blown out.

While thinking that it was great I could heal burns as well, I heard that among the half-breed beastmen working on the site, there should be 37 of them currently working.

I’ll definitely save them.

After I persuaded myself, I heard voices calling out one after the other.

I ran toward the sound and when I applied 「High Heal」to individuals who were carbonized, they recovered.

I was on the verge of tears then but it would be meaningless if I did not save everyone so I switched gears and moved into action.

After I finished helping the injured outside the building, I decided to enter the building spewing out smoke and fire.

There are still some people inside ... it's alright.

There's a chance.

“Lionel, Cathy, let's go.”

While thanking the 2 of them who stepped into the burning building without hesitation, I poured magic into my bracelet to trigger the wind barrier as soon as I entered the building.

“Sorry for being so unreasonable. Cathy, you've been here before right?”

“I remember it well nya. 5 floors have been constructed but the space between the 4th and 5th floor should be a wide empty space and I believe they were in the process of constructing the 3rd-floor

nya. Ah, also there should be a basement.”

Having a basement means ...

” ... We’ll begin from the very top.”

“Nya!?”

Lionel and Cathy looked like they were puzzled.

“Smoke and fire rise from bottom to top. The ones above are in danger. Please lead the way.”

I briefly explained and we ran up to the 5th floor.

“To have even blown off the ceiling, how intense was the explosion?”

I was dumbfounded when I noticed the ceiling of the 5th floor.

“He’s still alive nya.”

I reacted to Cathy’s voice and went to save the collapsed person.

The floor had good visibility and there were 3 collapsed people who were stiffened.

I immediately rushed to them and instantly applied 「High Heal」 and their wounds recovered but they did not regain consciousness.

“Hah~ Should we carry them on our shoulders?”

“No need.”

『Paan Paan Paan』, Under Lionel’s slaps, the consciousness of the 3 of them immediately flew back.

“Your burns have been treated. Immediately flee to the 1st floor. Can you run?”

The 3 of them could not make a sound under the glare of the greatsword-carrying Lionel but they nodded to my voice.

There wasn’t a partition between the 5th and 4th floor so I immediately saw the injured.

I saved 5 people on the 4th floor.

“Are you 2 alright?”

“I haven’t breathed in any smoke so I’m fine nya.”

“It seems like the fire is on a lower floor.”

“Yeah. Even so, why is it burnt to such an extent?”

“It was a rushed job to quickly build it nya.”

“There most likely wasn’t any designs to make it fire-proof.”

“Even though I would have been flexible if they spoke to me.”

“They most likely didn’t want to owe you.”

Even though we were having such a conversation, our feet never stopped and we were rescuing people.

There was one person trapped under a fallen stone beam but Lionel broke the stone beam with his greatsword and I repaired his torn arm with 「Extra Heal」.

I’ll heal them if they are alive. If I need heavy equipment I have Lionel.

In exchange for life-sign detectors, I have Cathy.

I rescued the injured while thinking it was reassuring to have them.

Thus, by the time we reached the 1st floor, the supports were

already burnt through and the ceiling was collapsing but Lionel blew away everything that was not blocked by the wind barrier.

“Dollarstar-san and his followers are not here. Furthermore ... I’m worried about the various colours of smoke coming from the basement. Were the medicinal herbs from the Herbalist Guild carried over already?”

“I haven’t heard of that nya.”

“It’s hard to guess the cause of the fire but ...”

Lionel cut open the door to the basement and we entered into the stairs leading to the basement.

Without the wind barrier, our visibility would have been bad and the smell would have been substantially bad as well.

Sure enough, Dollarstar-san, his followers, and the Herbalist Guild guildmaster Smic-dono were there.

“「Area High Heal」, 「Recover」, 「Recover」, 「Recover」, 「Recover」. Very well, let’s carry them out.”

The moment I said that, I thought I heard another loud sound of an explosion and the stairs to the first floor was obstructed.

” ... As expected, it’s that pattern. For now, let’s extinguish the

flames.”

“Understood.”

“Okay nya.”

While being painfully aware that life doesn't go so smoothly, I gave out orders to Lionel and Cathy.

The 2 of them followed my instructions and extinguished the flames.

I used purification magic to remove the fallen dust and soot.

“Well, there's still oxygen so we'll somehow make it. Lionel, can you cut the ceiling?”

“As one would expect, that would be impossible.”

“Cathy as well?”

“That's definitely beyond imagination nya. Luciel-sama, why aren't you in a panic nya?”

Seems like it was strange that a person who is usually panicking like me was not in a panic.

“Because this is underground. If we do not return after some time, Dolan and Paula would come to save us with their golem, and if they don’t come, there’s a possibility we can escape by storing the rubble in the magic bag.”

“Was such a thing happening within your expectations?”

“Yeah. I thought of it when we entered underground. After this, if I rescue everyone and survive through a miracle, my fame would rise. With that, even if I’m not around, my factory would be safe. Furthermore, without me around, I believe the people who want to make a move would come out.”

“Luciel-sama is such a schemer nya.”

“That’s a very bold move you made.”

“Did you accumulate so much stress nya?”

The 2 of them looked over with surprised expressions but they knew the amount of irritation, the wearing of my nerves I had this half a year by being singled out.

I said my feelings to the 2 of them with a wry smile on their faces.

“The stress I have is to the extent of wanting to have them drinking a full barrel of undiluted Object X. Well then, shall we have tea?”

I smiled at the 2 of them and prepared tea as we waited for the 4 of them to wake up.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading

Chapter 099: Unexpected Helper

As we were really having tea and chatting underground, the 4 people begin waking up.

“Oof, where? S-rank?” (Dollarstar)

“Ah, Dollarstar-san you’re awake? Thank god you survived.”
(Luciel)

“Ah! Are those guys alright?” (Dollarstar)

“We rescued everyone. Thanks to that, we’re currently trapped underground but nobody’s life is in danger.” (Luciel)

“? ... So they’re fine ... thanks.” (Dollarstar)

Dollarstar-san began waking up his followers so I went to wake Smic-dono.

“Where am I pu~?”

Looking at Smic-san who ended his sentence with a pu~ maybe because he’s still half-asleep, I spoke out.

“Are you awake? This is within the healing district building.”
(Luciel)

” ... Why are you here?” (Smic)

Maybe he was awake now so he no longer added pu~ to his sentences.

“I heard an explosion coming from this building and I thought that there would be wounded so I came to help.” (Luciel)

” ... I see, sorry.” (Smic)

Smic-dono apologized but I could not understand why he apologized.

“Why are you apologizing? I would understand if you thanked us but there isn’t any reason why Smic-dono should apologize?” (Luciel)

” ” (Smic)

” ... Dollarstar-san, what happened? It’s strange that these members are gathered here?” (Luciel)

Dollarstar-san looked at Smic-dono once before he began to talk.

” ... An unusual odour leaked out to the first floor from the basement so we thought that it might be bad and came here to check.” (Dollarstar)

“I see, however, the explosion did not happen here right?”
(Luciel)

“Yeah. The smoke here caused intense drowsiness and confusion so nobody would be able to stand here.” (Dollarstar)

“Drowsiness and confusion? But an amazing explosion happened? Since the 5th floor ceiling or in other words the roof was blown off.” (Luciel)

“What!?” (Dollarstar)

“You guys heard the sound of the explosion right?” (Luciel)

“No, I only vaguely heard cries and the sound of something bursting open.” (Dollarstar)

Just how strong was the smell down here?

“Smic-dono, you know something right?” (Luciel)

” ... Yes. Warabis came.” (Smic)

“Warabis? ... Ah, Warabis-dono huh?” (Luciel)

Now that I think about it, I had completely forgotten about that

raccoon dog beastman.

“Yes. As if he knew that I was transferring medicine over here, he said he came over to help.” (Smic)

“By any chance?” (Luciel)

” ... A change that would not occur during regular compounding happened. Because various powders were mixed ...” (Smic)

“However, it wasn’t something that would explode right?” (Luciel)

” ” (Smic)

Smic-dono began sweating profusely and he further diverted his gaze as he added some more information.

” ... When the smoke began forming, I tried to collect the valuable herbs in a hurry like the flame grass and others but many of them were gone. I didn’t notice when I was compounding ...” (Smic)

“Can such things cause an explosion so easily?” (Luciel)

“It wouldn’t explode. Although it would form something the size of a fireball upon contact with air ...” (Smic)

That's most likely the trigger.

Did it set fire to the smoke? Or was it a dust explosion? No, the visibility was clear so the chances of that are low.

"... I don't know the cause. Because it didn't seem like Warabis-dono was in the building." (Luciel)

"... Is that so." (Smic)

I should not just suspect him.

But I will, of course, have him take responsibility for releasing the smoke.

"Was there anything else suspicious?" (Luciel)

"Lately the number of people working increased and various races mixed together but there's no way all of us worked together so I don't know." (Smic)

"I see."

If it was a drama, I would have been able to immediately make an educated guess as to who the criminal is.

"Are the things here all important items?" (Luciel)

“Yes. But there is stock within the Herbalist Guild as well.”
(Smic)

” ... But I can bring it with me? Do you really want to leave them here?” (Luciel)

“Please bring it along.” (Smic)

“Okay.”

I collected all the bottles and medicinal grass and Smic-dono lowered his head countless times.

“S-rank, how do we exit from here?” (Dollarstar)

“If you wish to exit we can immediately do so. Do you wish to leave?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. If the responsibility of the explosion is pushed onto us, we would not be able to hold against the masses.” (Dollarstar)

Ah, I forgot about the standing of the half-breed beastmen.

“Well, quite some time has passed so shall we make a move?”
(Luciel)

I placed the broken logs and rubble at the staircase entrance into my magic bag.

To be safe, I had Lionel ready his large shield as I steadily collected.

There were sounds of exclamation from behind but there was no knowing when an avalanche of rubble would come down so I couldn't divert my attention.

I firmly watched the steps as we ascended up the stairs and I carefully retrieved the scrap materials.

Then, we reached the door that Lionel cut to enter the basement and it was replaced with a wall of rubble and it would have normally been impossible to leave under such a situation.

“It's really good that I brought my magic bag.”

When I placed the wall of rubble into my magic bag, within it was smoke and embers that were still smouldering. While thinking that I would have to inspect that as well, I frantically continued to move my hand, it took us about an hour before we escaped but we finally succeeded in escaping from the healing district building.

“The onlookers have greatly decreased huh.” (Luciel)

“Of course, looks like there was movement that made them worried.” (Lionel)

The onlookers that made it difficult to pass through them have now reached a number that I could count.

“Where should we go first nya?”

“Well of course, to the place that golem is at.” (Luciel)

I immediately replied to Cathy’s question.

The reason was because, at the scheduled location for the school, I saw a 5-meter golem rampaging.

“Let’s make those who picked a fight with us regret it. Dollarstar-san and guys, do you all have any idea of a place that half-breed beastmen would gather?” (Luciel)

“Usually, it would be in front of the leaders mansion.” (Dollarstar)

“Could you guys go over there first? Help me listen to what they say.” (Luciel)

” ... Fu~ I’ll believe in you.” (Dollarstar)

“Yeah. Well then, I’ll have the 2 of you work.” (Luciel)

『Yes!』

We headed at full speed toward the school construction site and the dog beastmen, cat beastmen and dragonewts were there. I held my illusion cane and voiced out when I approached.

“What is happening here?” (Luciel)

Reflected in my sight was Paula struggling to manipulate the golem and Dolan holding on to his hammer, the 2 of them forming a defensive line around the wounded figures of Yarubo squad.

It was a situation that easily suggested that combat began.

“I’ll ask again, what the hell happened here!!”

After I shouted, the dragonewt tribe prostrated and began to beg for forgiveness.

“Fo, forgive us Luciel-do, -sama. This was decided during the emergency 8 race meeting.”

“Is the dragonewt tribe making excuses?”

” ”

The roughly 30 dragonewt members were completely prostrating

while facing my direction and kept their mouths closed.

The dog and cat beastmen trembled as I approached ... but I ignored them and passed by them to apply healing magic to Dolan and the others.

“But 2 hours haven’t even passed since we were caught up in the explosion?”

“These guys claimed that Luciel-sama died or Luciel-sama used the half-breed beastmen and caused an accident so they were here to confiscate this land.” (Dolan)

“Hou. Can I take that as a declaration of war against me, the S-rank healer of Saint Schull’s church?”

The individuals who heard that began trembling and was further frightened when the greatsword held by Lionel burst into flames and was clad in flames, they rapidly dropped their weapons.

“If you intend to begin fighting to the death, I’ll stand in for Luciel-sama.” (Lionel)

There were some among the dog and cat beastmen that could not stand straight due to fear of Lionel’s fighting spirit.

“He, hey, you’re a cat beastman right? Help ...” (Random cat beastman)

『Thud』 That sound was instantaneous, I think Cathy moved to the back of the man and struck his neck.

“I hate such unsightly people nya, I’ve remembered all the faces of the people here nya. Think about what you should be doing now, the people who move for Luciel-sama’s sake would have a much easier time later nya. First, save the half-breed beastmen nya.”

After Cathy said so, the beastmen looked at each other before grabbing their weapons and running toward the leaders mansion.

“Luciel-sama, please instruct us too.”

The dragonewts were still prostrating.

“Ah~ then, the real criminal who burnt the healing district building was the merchant who sawed wood there, catch those that are really responsible.” (TL: So in summary the explosion was a saw dust explosion triggered by the herbs Warabis stole)

『Yes!』

The dragonewts formed platoons and moved out.

“Dolan and others, good job defending the site. Nothing is here as of now anyway so we’ll walk toward the place the half-breed

beastmen are currently and return to the Healer's Guild."

『Yes!』

Without rushing, we headed toward the dwellings of the half-breed beastmen and saw from afar that it seemed like it was lit ablaze.

"Everyone, check all the houses, I'll heal them if they are alive!"

I slowly walked and surveyed the neighbourhood.

When I approached, I felt like the person was already dead, but I had a strange feeling telling me that I had to cast.

"「Extra Heal」"

The magic glow appeared but the person did not breathe in ... he did?

The light rapidly returned the cut up body to its original form.

"The life force of beastmen is amazing." (Luciel)

Even though the person I helped was a stranger, I was brought to tears.

Lionel acted like he did not notice my tears.

The result of the search was only this half-breed beastman who's back was slashed and I speculate that he was made an example of.

“The presence of bloodstains mean that a battle happened. Perhaps the worst-case scenario has happened?” (Luciel)

“What shall we do?” (Lionel)

“The people pulling the strings from behind the scenes are unforgivable. This time, I will not absolve the crimes of the accomplices as well.” (Luciel)

The rabbit, wolf, fox and bird beastmen had stormed in from the front of the Healer's Guild.

Defending the guild was the enlarged bear beastmen with the Hacchi tribe riding on their shoulders as well as my Priest Knight subordinates.

The first to notice my presence were the bird beastmen who stopped flight and came down.

The next to notice were the bear beastmen and the Hacchi tribe.

The reason why they noticed was because they were protecting the Healer's Guild.

I did not expect the bird beastmen to become our allies but that must have been because of the bear beastmen's pheromones. (TL: Wait what? I only know the bird beastman representative Souther likes the bear beastmen.)

“Well then, could you please tell me why you all are storming the Healer's Guild? Ririaldo-dono, Olga-dono, Forens-dono.”

Hearing my voice, all the beastmen including the 3 of them stopped.

“I'm asking you all what's the meaning of this? Did you not hear me?” (Luciel)

“You're alive.” (Olga)

Olga spoke.

“This is ...” (Olga)

The usually chirpy Forens was now acting somber.

“This was decided within the 8 races meeting. The half-breed beastmen that Luciel-dono gave preferential treatment to damaged the healing district. It was decided that the responsibility will be held by the leader Luciel-dono.” (Forens)

Isn't that just shifting the responsibility? Oh well, it doesn't matter either way.

“You guys did well to jam in a meeting in the mere 2 hours we were trapped within the fire. What's the meaning of this? Ah, I see, everyone plotted against me and the Healer's Guild. Hahaha.” (TL: It's impossible the leaders met and came to a decision within the time they were gone so the people pulling the strings behind the scene most likely decided to do this a long time ago. They were just waiting for the correct opportunity.)

Forens rebuked as I was laughing in a daze.

“Why did you not discuss with us about the fact that you selfishly brought the Hacchi tribe into Ienith on your own?” (Forens)

“What's the problem with that? They have not taken a single step out of the Healer's Guild and have not caused any trouble?” (Luciel)

“That's not true. You can gain an enormous profit by having them produce honey.” (Forens)

“So what? The people from the Hacchi tribe are my friends. Furthermore, this is my personal land and we have signed a contract stating that I have complete freedom in terms of profits. I believe that you, as a merchant, understand what that entails right?” (Luciel)

” ”

Forens was completely silent.

“The rabbit beastman Ririaldo-dono, not only are you corrupt, embezzling the money that the many races worked sweat and tears for, you even have the gall to pass the blame for the healing district that you all made. The eyes of the rabbit beastman I know are excellent but your eyes are evidently cloudy.” (TL: Most likely Cathy investigated and found out who embezzled the money?)

“Wha, I don’t know what you’re talking about. Furthermore, we never had the intention of making the healing district in the first place. It was only because everyone was fussing over it merely because you became a dragon slayer.” (Ririaldo)

“I see. Can I take that as the collective opinion of all the rabbit beastmen?”

I looked around Ririaldo and the rabbit beastmen holding onto hoes were hiding in the back.

Because they were originally never an aggressive race, they desperately came forward and called out.

“I, I don’t want to die.”

“I only came because I was told to.”

“Ririaldo-san, did you lie to us?”

“Please forgive me.” (All 4 lines by random rabbit beastmen)

Despite acting this way now, they most likely just watched on as the half-breed beastman was slashed previously.

“Hah~ That’s enough. I’ll take it that only Ririaldo-dono thinks that way. However, as an S-rank healer of the Healer’s Guild, I will have you all that are complicit in this as well as the Ienith leaders receive corresponding punishment.” (Luciel)

They all drooped their shoulders and did not say a word.

“Olga-dono, at the very least, I had thought ... that you were my ally. Since you made your intent clear that you wanted to create the school for Sheila-chan’s sake. What’s the reason for the wolf beastmen?” (Luciel)

” ... Sorry. This is also for the sake of the wolf beastmen.” (Olga)

“Can you proudly say that to Shiela-chan?”

” ”

“So, what’s your decision? Will you choose to remain hostile?”

I do not think that he's a bad person.

Olga held his sword with his other hand and closed his eyes before opening his mouth to speak.

“Gu ... It's already to the point of “Luciel, don't bully him so much. Olga's going to go bald.”” (Olga) (TL: He's mimicking Shiela)

“I guess. Well, with this, roughly all the races' are accounted for.” (Luciel)

“Luciel, if you don't smoothly handle the case slightly more with various other information, you won't be able to stand above.” (Garba)

“Well, I'm glad that you did not change you straightforward personality.” (Grulga)

The 2 wolf beastmen who suddenly appeared laughed.

“Why are the 2 of you here?” (Luciel)

Was I hallucinating?

However, I knew that it was not a dream.

The 2 of them seemed delighted as they spoke to me.

“This is our hometown after all and we wanted to see Luciel’s confused look. Furthermore, it seems like we have to slightly roast some people.” (Grulga)

“I received a letter from Olga saying that it would soon be dangerous. Nevertheless, why is the War Ogre General here? And that’s Instantaneous Shadow?”(Garba) (TL: Lol their Japanese nicknames are much much cooler, Sen’oni Shogun and Shun’ei. I’ll most likely use those instead.)

He’s most likely talking about Lionel and Cathy.

I told them about their position.

“? I bought the 2 of them as slaves but they are now my trusted retinue.” (Lionel)

The 2 of them looked at each other and laughed.

Moreover, I somehow heard a laughing voice from behind Lionel and Cathy.

“Well, it doesn’t matter. Well then, Olga, are the fox beastmen there and the bird beastmen above enemies?” (Garba)

“You’re late! Shiela would drown in tears if you were a little

later! In any case, you 2 were most likely searching for the mastermind anyway.” (Olga)

“Olga sure knows us well. We’ve already caught the mastermind.” (Garba)

“The fox beastman Forens was an ally until just now but he was only confused from seeing the Hacchi tribe so he’s an ally. The bird beastmen are allies because the bear beastmen are here.” (Olga)

“Well, it’s about time the half-breed beastmen gathered so let’s move to the meeting place of the representatives. Luciel-kun, I was extremely happy to hear that you were working hard to make Ienith a better place.” (Garba)

“Thank you.” (Grulga)

“But, the beastmen have many fetters so if you do not properly discipline them by standing above, they will treat you with contempt. I’ll teach you how to properly discipline them at the meeting place so remember it.” (Garba)

“Yes, Garba-san.” (Luciel)

“Luciel, I heard you got that from the Adventurer’s Guild?” (Grulga)

“Eh, yes. Are you going to use it?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. Since there are guys that I must feed my new cooking to.”
(Grulga)

“Grulga-san’s food terror?” (Luciel)

“What a disrespectful thing to say. I seriously made it edible okay.” (Grulga)

“Isn’t that amazing! But, perhaps, they will faint immediately ... after eating it?” (Luciel)

“You’re the only person that can eat it normally. Let’s go.”
(Grulga)

“Yes. But please wait a moment. Yarubo squad will be on standby here. Haniru-dono, Brian-dono, is anybody hurt?” (Luciel)

“We’re alright.” (Yarubo)

“We’re alright too.” (Brian)

It seems like the battle had not begun so there wasn’t anybody injured.

Thus, we once again began to walk together with Garba-san and Grulga-san toward the leaders mansion, toward the meeting place of the representatives.

After this, I finally saw the true strength of the wolf beastmen brothers that seized Ienith.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 100: Mastermind And Perpetrators

As soon as we began moving toward the representative meeting point, somebody spoke to me.

“Do you mind if I go on ahead?”

Garba-san left those words and disappeared.

“As expected of the ninja nya.” (TL: I translated Garba’s nickname as hermit previously but I found out that his nickname can also refer to a term used to describe the ninja escape technique, so I changed it to ninja)

Cathy commented from behind but I decided to prioritise talking with Grulga-san first.

The usual bear-like person ... with a presence that was reminiscent of the Asian black bears in my previous life, Grulga-san was there. (TL: For those who forgot, Grulga-san is a wolf beastman the size of a bear xD, Grulga & Garba are brothers, Grulga is the cooking bear who loves to cook with Object X and force Object X down unsuspecting newbie adventurers, Garba is the intelligence agent-like character who taught Luciel about dismantling monsters.)

That Grulga-san was looking at me with a pleasant smile. It seems like he wanted to talk about the honey.

“I was truly surprised that you formed friendly relations with the Hacchi tribe. Honey is something that rarely appears in the market. Which was why I thought “Wouldn’t this be the answer to my search?” when I got my hands on honey, but it was a race that one would rarely meet under normal circumstances.” (Grulga)

“No~ I only met them by coincidence. Moreover, I thought of making Ienith an environment that is easy to live in ... but I’ve only met with failures.” (Luciel)

“Figures. It doesn’t matter if you become a dragon slayer, this country is currently rotten. Do you know why Garba-niisan left Ienith?” (Grulga)

“Nope, I only heard from Olga that he was called a prodigy in the past.” (Luciel)

“Even though he wasn’t a representative, he was tasked with doing anything and everything, and if he failed, the responsibility will be pushed onto him. That was a daily routine. That’s why, when I registered as an adventurer, we both left Ienith.” (Grulga)

” ... To think even Garba-san will give up.” (Luciel)

So this country was like this since the past.

“Garba-niisan regretted that such a problem was shifted onto Luciel despite the passing of time.” (Grulga)

” ... I’ve come to personally understand the dreadfulness of being used by people. I’ve been dreaming of going on a journey lately ...”
(Luciel)

In my previous life when I was working for my firm, apart from jobs in a specialised field, I only had to compile the instructions for the purchase order date and construction details after taking a contract before handing it over to the engineering department.

However, now I had to take responsibility for everything, similar to a president of a small and medium-sized enterprise.

All the responsibility was merely weighing down my shoulders.

“This time, the incident where you broke through the activated labyrinth and killed the dragon to rid the country of corruption was not caused by the representatives but by the elders. Luciel, this time, you were placed on a pedestal.” (Grulga)

“Elders?” (Luciel)

There are elders ... I’ve never heard of anything regarding that at all.

Also, the person who spread the news about me killing the dragon should have been Jasuan-dono.

Seeing my confused expression, Grulga-san gave a simple explanation.

“The representatives of the 8 race meeting are quite young, right? The oldest is only about 40 years old. Why is that? Elders circle ... that’s because the patriarch of each of the races is the ones giving the instructions.” (Grulga)

” ... But I’ve never heard anything about that before?” (Luciel)

“In each of the races, there are elders that choose the representatives. The representatives are usually unable to oppose the elders.” (Grulga)

” ... ?” (Luciel)

“The 8 race meeting only involve 8 races right? Moreover, the patriarch of the dragonewts still possesses a blessing so they can’t defy the dragonewts as well.” (Grulga)

... Looks like I still have a lot of things I don’t know about Ienith.

“Even though it’s been proceeding smoothly these couple of months ...” (Luciel)

When I spilled that out, Grulga-san grasped my shoulder and touched on the recent incident.

“The elders were not happy with you renewing the slum district and giving preferential treatment to the half-breed beastmen and

individuals without relatives. Which was why they began to work out a plan.” (Grulga)

” ... Is that why an explosion occurred?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. I believe you will get the details later, but apparently, they decided to push the responsibility onto the Healer’s Guild because the building collapsed and you could not come out.” (Grulga)

” ... Where did Garba-san pick up such confidential information? In the first place, were the 2 of you here since quite some time ago?” (Luciel)

“We reached this city of Ienith 3 days ago.” (Grulga)

“You guys did well to not be noticed.” (Luciel)

“Since Garba-niisan was there.” (Grulga)

“So when we reach the meeting point, do I have a role to play?” (Luciel)

“Nope. You gave the firmly bound Ienith a new blast of fresh air. Even though you faced obstruction, you still pressed on to better the environment in Ienith so there’s no harm in letting you enjoy slightly.” (Grulga)

As he said that, we arrived at the meeting place of the

representatives and saw that the half-breed beastmen were jointly surrounded by the beastmen with the tiger beastmen leading the largest group.

I was about to run over upon seeing that so Grulga-san grabbed my shoulder.

“Relax. Nobody’s injured right? Because I’ve already put out a request for the Adventurer’s Guild people.”

Looking closely, I was able to confirm that there was a troop of equipped individuals forming a barricade between the half-breed beastmen and the beastmen to prevent the beastmen from attacking.

I could even spot the figures of Jasuan-dono and Jias-dono among the barricade.

“What does this mean?” (Luciel)

“You’ll know when we go closer.” (Grulga)

True to his word, upon approaching, I saw elders from each of the races as well as dozens of beastmen bound by rope with cloth covering their mouths.

“Sorry for the wait. Luciel is fine as well. Luciel, these are the culprits I mentioned previously.” (Grulga)

The moment Grulga-san said that while making sure that the surrounding could hear, it instantly became an uproar.

The elderly beastmen growled but the beastmen captured along with them were silent.

“Luciel-sama, thank you for saving Dollarstar-san. We’ve also been fully put to work by these 2 people who Luciel-sama admire.”
(Kefin)

“Eh? Is anybody from the Kefin squad hurt?” (Luciel)

“No, there aren’t any.” (Kefin)

I was about to ask Grulga-san about this when this time, Jasuandono and Jias-dono called out to me.

“As expected. I believed that the Luciel who received the mighty blessing of the dragon would not die so easily.”

“I was fearful when I was told to instigate the dissemination that Luciel-sama had died but the elders who rarely appear in front of people and usually have the strongest level of wariness were all having a meeting together, there would never be such an opportunity again so it went well.” (TL: They’ve been looking for a chance to nab all the elders at 1 go but they rarely met up together so this event gave them the best opportunity to act.)

The 2 of them looked at me with relieved expressions and their gazes became sharp when they looked at the elderly below.

Already, I could no longer follow the situation.

Seeing that, Grulga-san began to explain to me little by little for me to understand.

“The truth is this time when we planned our strategy, we made use of the adventurers. We told them that this was the final chance to rebuild Ienith.”

” ... What about the attacks on the school’s planned site, the former slum district, and the Healer’s Guild?”

“It resulted in some injuries but that was the best option.”

” ... But, there was a half-breed beastman left to die in the slum district ... to me, when strategizing the important matters, the small matters ... don’t tell me the fire was also?”

I could roughly understand what the strategy was about.

However, I might be too naive, but I could not agree with a strategy that hurt people.

“There’s no way that would be part of the plan as well. We were quite shocked as well by that explosion. If that was the plan, I

would have met with Luciel with Garba-niisan yesterday to talk about it before it happened.”

I was relieved after hearing that.

I would have held the 2 of them in contempt if they intentionally caused that explosion.

Then, an airy voice came over.

“Hey~ sorry for the wait. He used some strange trick and nearly escaped.” (Garba)

Garba-san came over carrying a racoon dog beastman bound by a rope over his shoulder.

That instant, the noisy atmosphere since before changed completely, silence commanded the place.

” ... Erm, that person laying limply on your shoulder, is he perhaps Warabis-dono? Moreover, he’s dressed similarly to the person I helped earlier ... human?” (Luciel)

“Don’t you think it’s awful? He fainted the moment he saw my face even though it’s been such a long time since we met ... also, this guy is the perpetrator of the sabotage.” (Garba)

“Ha?” (Luciel)

How did he know that he was the perpetrator?

“Everyone from the half-breed beastmen race, you’re familiar with this face right?” (Garba)

Garba-san lowered Warabis-dono to the ground and pulled the rope binding him to orientate the man’s face toward us.

” ... What ... Isn’t that Hattori?” (Kefin) (TL: Hattori is the suspected reincarnated individual who taught Kefin and the others ninjutsu and supposedly died in the labyrinth. He has the ability to transform. Woah, the author planned/foreshadowed this arc out wayyy far out. He was mentioned in B5C73.)

Kefin cried out.

Hattori as in the Hattori that should have died in the labyrinth?

“Didn’t you say he died?” (Luciel)

The person who answered my question wasn’t Kefin but Garba-san.

“Apparently, he did a lot of things behind the scenes. Not here but at the Elimasia Empire though.” (Garba)

“That person is indebted to Ienith right?” (Luciel)

“Originally it seems to be so. Possessing an ability to transform into anything, he took advantage of that to gather various information. He gathered information about the status of the slums and passed it on to the elders.” (Garba)

“Kukuku. Betrayal is the conventional way of the ninja. What’s wrong with switching to those who highly value my ability.” (Hattori) (TL: He used sessha to refer to himself and ended his sentence with degozaru. Lol think of Kenshin from Samurai X)

Although it feels like he’s a foreigner that memorized wrong information about ninjas ... this is a reincarnated individual huh.

“Sorry for bursting your bubble but you can no longer use your ability. Since it is possible to seal all abilities of criminal slaves.” (Garba)

“That’s impossible ... eh? The rope unbinding technique doesn’t work.” (Hattori)

“Hattori, why did you betray us?” (Dollarstar)

The boss Dollarstar stood out from the half-breed beastmen and asked Hattori.

“I am thankful for you picking me up. However, I have a responsibility as a person chosen by God.” (Hattori)

“God? Are you saying you’re the messenger of the Chief God Kuraiya? What nonsense. You do not hold such a title.” (Dollarstar)

“I was saved by God when I lost my life. It is inexcusable toward God for a chosen person like me to continue to stay at the very bottom.” (Hattori)

... He’s totally a reincarnated person.

The matter about Gods is unrelated to the current incident so I’ll put it aside first ... but the problem is, how do I judge the fact that he attempted murder.

“You should be aware that Dollarstar and the others were working there. If I did not rescue them, dozens of people would have died. What do you have to say about that?” (Luciel)

Hattori glared at me and replied.

“Everything is your fault. Since you captured the spies from the empire one after the other, I fell into financial difficulty and had to resort to taking up this job.” (Hattori)

Then, Garba who was holding on to Hattori looked at him with cold eyes and spoke.

“Yup, he’s completely a person who pushes the blame. I’ll torture you to have you spit out all the information so maybe I’ll have you

faint for now. Luciel-kun, feed him Object X.” (Garba) (TL: Insert Colbert freak out gif)

I took out the barrel and a cup from my magic bag and poured Object X out.

He’s a reincarnated individual and ninjas are enduring people so he might be able to drink it? I was concerned. When Garba-san ordered him, Hattori began drinking the Object X but just before he drank it, his eyes turned white and he foamed at his mouth. (TL: Garba can order him most likely because Garba’s the owner and Hattori is his criminal slave)

“As expected of Luciel ... to give the undiluted form.” (Grulga)

Grulga-san jabbed but I didn’t understand what he meant. (TL: To Luciel, there’s no difference between the undiluted and diluted form of Object X hahah)

Then, Garba-san’s speech began.

“It’s been a long time everybody, to all the people I don’t know, nice to meet you, I’m the son of the wolf beastman elder Gurauga laying there.

I’ve hated this Ienith from a long time ago.

I accompanied my father to Ienith’s representative meeting when I was 15.

What I saw at the representative meeting was but a gathering of nominal individuals from each of the races continuing to pull each other back. It wasn't a place to decently discuss policies.

If any of the proposals fails, all the responsibility would be pushed to that particular race, if it succeeds then they solely emphasize on getting privileges, it was such a filthy gathering of individuals.

Instead of coming up with decent policies, they pushed all the blame onto the Philosopher and chased him out and the bad practice of bashing the Healer's Guild persisted from the time of our grandfathers.

The fields of spices we currently harvest were among all the seeds from the world brought by the Philosopher who coached us on how to harvest and grow them as well as pioneered the trade route to sell it to various countries.

It is absolutely not something decided by Ienith's representative meeting."

Garba-san truly understood the representative meeting.

"Garba-niisan proposed policies three times when he was young. 2 of them succeeded while 1 was struck down. Can you believe it? The one struck down was decided by the elders ... during the patriarch meeting, to be crushed." (Grulga)

“So the representative meeting and the patriarch meeting is different right?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. I mentioned it earlier but the respective patriarchs decide on their race’s 2-year term representative.” (Grulga)

“I didn’t know that as well.” (Luciel)

“That’s expected.” (Grulga)

Even during our conversation in soft voices, Garba-san’s speech continued.

“And the healer Luciel-sama there, why was he nominated as Ienith’s representative? That was to hide the fraud conducted by the representatives.

My investigation tells me that the tiger beastman Shaza conspired with the former Herbalist Guild vice-guildmaster Gurohara to sell the country’s information to another country, pocketing a large sum of money and used that gold to bribe the elders to become the representative.

To conceal other instances of fraud, such as the case where the rabbit beastman Ririaldo-dono gave falsified reports to pocket the unaccounted salaries was also concealed by installing the S-rank healer and dragon slayer Luciel-sama as the representative.

And then, the patriarchs thought that Luciel-sama would not achieve anything before his term ended.

However, he is not an ordinary man.

Firstly, he cleaned up that dirty and smelly slums district.

As a result of him not discriminating against the half-breed beastmen, saying that they did not choose the place to be born in, they have not committed a crime even once.

Next, to secure Ienith's future by allowing the future generation to play an active role, he invested his personal wealth to construct a school for us.

I've found that the announcement made that the destruction of the healing district by the half-breed beastmen and that the healing district was constructed by Luciel-sama was all orchestrated in order to plunge his reputation.

Residents of Ienith, does this sit well with you? Is the beastmen a despicable race that returns good with evil? If not, then let us rebuild Ienith together.”

I understood that Garba-san wanted to use this situation to flatten all the evil customs.

Even so, there were still people who did not know about the complaints I received when I proposed to make a school huh. (TL:

The representatives didn't want to pay for the construction and didn't want to lose the manpower to schooling if I remember correctly.)

I was quite shocked to know that.

I spoke to Grulga-san softly.

“My back feels itchy hearing Garba-san attach -sama to my name though?”

“Well, that's how it has to be during a speech.”

“I'm curious but wouldn't it be better if Garba-san just becomes the representative?”

“Maybe temporarily ...”

“Nevertheless, is Merotoni's Adventurer's Guild alright without the 2 of you?”

“Yeah. Broad told us to give you a helping hand for a little bit.”

“I'm fully of gratitude toward Instructor Broad.”

“Tell that to him yourself when you finish your term.”

“I guess I should.”

I’ve really got to thank Instructor Broad for sending the 2 of them.

“You’re really well taken care of huh.”

Lionel said.

“Yeah. When I was in Meratoni and even now, I’ve received a lot of help from him. I’ll also immediately begin to use honorific speech with you after I release you from your slave contract though?” (TL: Meaning he’s also as thankful to Lionel as well.)

“Kakaka. I believe it’s fine the way it is now.” (Lionel)

“Ha~ Well, if you change your mind, please let me know.”
(Luciel)

Lionel merely smiled.

Garba-san continued his speech and strongly declared.

“Normally, I would not be able to judge them.

But, I will succeed the current wolf beastmen’s patriarch as the new patriarch, so I hereby announce my desire to invoke our

enforcement right.”

The surroundings began to buzz with noise.

Patriarch successor? Enforcement right? I heard contents that I had completely no clue of so I asked Grulga-san frankly.

“Can the patriarch succession Garba-san mention be accomplished so easily? And what’s the enforcement right?”

Grulga-san waited slightly for an interval and began speaking.

“Firstly, patriarch succession only happens when the patriarch passes away or commits a crime that results in him becoming a slave, the affected race will discuss among themselves and elect a person before succession occurs.”

” ... There’s nobody who can object to Garba-san’s claim so he can directly succeed the current patriarch huh ...” (Luciel)

I said and Grulga-san replied with a grin.

“Yeah. There’s nobody brave enough to challenge Garba-niisan face-to-face in Ienith. Moving on, the enforcement right ...”

According to Grulga-san’s words, the enforcement right carries with it risks.

It is a right that can only be invoked by patriarchs, if used, the elected representatives will not have the right to speak for the next 10 years. (TL: They'll have no say in meetings)

Furthermore, Ienith is a democratic country so even if the enforcement right is invoked, without laying the groundwork with the other beastmen races, the probability that it will be voted for would be extremely low.

I became worried and continued to ask Grulga-san.

“Then, would it be voted for this time?”

Grulga-san once again grinned and ... gave a smile of satisfaction before he answered.

“This time, the patriarchs of all the races have been made into criminal slaves. Hence, the only patriarch now is Garba-niisan. Furthermore, if another patriarch is chosen then his enforcement right would be restored so there isn't a single risk this time.”

After ending my questions to Grulga-san, I faced Garba-san and he had begun to announce the details of his enforcement right.

“Well then, it's about time I make a move. I'll be using that to prepare my cooking so please lend me that.”

Grulga-san said and walked up to where Garba-san was after receiving the barrel of Object X from me.

With the 2 of them standing side-by-side, I felt like the pressure from them doubled.

“The culprits for this incident, the elders of the 8 races, will be executed and their assets confiscated.

There’s a possibility that the economy would collapse if we dismiss all the current representatives. Hence, we will provide a preparation period for them to complete the procedures to find a successor to take over their work.

If they are found to be innocent during the interrogations after this, they will not be converted into slaves but all their assets will be confiscated.

Naturally, those guilty will be turned into slaves and punished with a life sentence of reclaiming new land.”

“Next, regarding the man who caused the explosion, I’ll have the former representative of the slums district decide if he will be executed or turned into a slave after listening to all that he has to say.

Regarding Warabis-dono, this time, we’ve found that he was manipulated by this man but he will also be turned into a slave.”

“Finally, many individuals joined the riot this time and in normal circumstances, they will all be converted into criminal slaves but

Luciel-sama helped you all beg for mercy.

Thus, you all will be granted clemency if you finish the cooking made by Grulga as well as the Philosopher's drink. You all have equal rights to choose.

Incidentally, there's no place to run so be relieved. You all are under the same conditions."

"I'm Grulga who will be handling the cooking. Let us celebrate the birth of a new Ienith with cooking that can even be presented to the heavens and the Philosopher's drink that will leave a lingering taste that can't be experienced from anything else."

Grulga-san shouted and looked like he was enjoying himself.

While observing that, I thought, isn't Garba-san's punishment this time slightly severe?

Or is this reasonable? I continued to ask myself that.

Am I trying to run away to protect my reputation ... to not want to be the nasty person who gives out severe punishments?

If only there are places like prisons and courts ... I noticed that I'm afraid of judging people.

While I was falling into confusion from the various emotions

surfacing within me, I heard the sound of screams and cries from all around.

It wasn't screams from drinking Object X but the angry voices of people aimed toward Garba-san for bringing the incident to a conclusion by executing the elders of all the races.

There were even angry and bitter words like parricide. However, Garba-san never reverses a decision that he had decided upon. (TL: Parricide = The killing of a parent or other near relative)

Garba-san and Grulga-san laid down judgement on their own father.

I had them add in a single thing.

“Would it be alright if the punishment date is decided at a later date?”

Garba-san gave a surprised expression and nodded.

“This time, what you all done is a crime that cannot be forgiven. Your souls will go to heaven and your bodies will return to earth. Please repent on your actions until the final day of your execution.” (Luciel)

I only added that.

“Well then, until the execution date, the elders and their cronies will be made into criminal slaves.”

Thus, while looking at the elders? patriarchs? that are pulled up to their feet by the adventurers, I prayed that Ienith will become slightly more normal after this.

And then, I, not knowing who judged who in this distorted country, in whose hands those rights were held, and how much the information was being manipulated by the upper echelons, felt terrified after I understood just how dangerous a position I was in.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

I wrote countless times and modified it countless times until smoke came out of my head.

I determined that it would be impossible for a 20-year-old to shoulder the responsibility of executing people.

Chapter 101: Completion Of The School

After Garba-san finished announcing the content for his enforcement right, Garba-san and Grulga-san prompted me to return to the Healer's Guild but I chose to stay.

I felt that I had to see it with my own eyes.

“Well, I don't think it will be something you will enjoy when you see it though.”

Garba-san said before he took out the list of residents and instructed Grulga-san to have the people who participated in the riot drink Object X.

As expected, there wasn't enough time to cook so it led to the decision that they would be given the food at a later date.

Immediately beside Grulga-san who was administering Object X, Garba-san explained to me the enforcement right in detail.

” ... Because of that, if the other races decide on new patriarchs, the enforcement right would be restored and the wolf beastmen would not fall into an oppressed environment.” (Garba) (TL: I think he meant that once all the races have their patriarch back, it will be back to a voting system so it's unlikely that an enforcement right taken against them will pass through with majority. Think of it like the United Nations.)

“But if many races collude, there’s the possibility that they can strike down a single race right?” (Luciel)

“That’s right. Usually, approval from the majority of the races is required but criminals do not have that right. That’s why there was a need to gather all the patriarchs.” (Garba) (TL: Meaning he gathered them up to drop them into slavery to prevent them from colluding and passing an enforcement right to Luciel and Garba/Grulga’s disadvantage)

“Were you thinking of using the uproar from the explosion to eliminate the darkness within Ienith in one fell swoop?”

“Yeah. I had ties with the 2 top brass in the Adventurer’s Guild in the past and I only requested for their help yesterday. Though, originally it was supposed to be resolved in a smarter fashion about a month later.”

“Is that so ... so even Garba-san misreads the future.”

“Haha. It always happens.”

This time, because there was only a single patriarch, the proposal to forgive the individuals who participated in the riot by having them drink Object X was railroaded and they all lost consciousness after drinking.

37 dragonewts, 217 dog beastmen, 163 cat beastmen, 211 rabbit beastmen, and 349 tiger beastmen fell unconscious after finishing

Object X.

This time, the bird beastmen were innocent, most of the fox beastmen were innocent except for a few, the wolf beastmen who joined the riot were given Object X while it was decided that the ones who attacked, including Olga-san who called Garba-san over, would be converted into criminal slaves.

Regarding the dog beastmen, cat beastmen, rabbit beastmen and tiger beastmen representatives and their subordinates, their status will be dropped to criminal slave status and it had been decided that they would be transported to the Labyrinth Nation Grandol. The Labyrinth Nation Grandol is the birthplace of labyrinths and has a number of them, so I think they would be used as fodder during labyrinth captures ...

It turns out that the dragonewt representative Jack-dono and his subordinates did not participate in the riot and they influenced the majority of the dragonewts to not participate in the riot. However, because they could not stop all the dragonewts, they were still converted into criminal slaves but their treatment was entrusted to Jasuan-dono.

I asked Olga-san.

” ... Is it alright like this?”

Because I understood that this person wanted to improve Ienith in his own way.

“I hate it. But if we are not converted into slaves, it will set a bad example to the other races.”

He said with a smile but I guess he had been regretting since the time he could not stop Shaza.

“Even so, Olga-san has Shiela-chan right? What are you going to do about her?”

” ... I requested for Garba and Grulga’s aid with regard to Shiela. ... It’s going to be lonely but this is also my atonement.”

He ended with that and gulped Object X down in one go and fainted.

I looked at the unconscious Olga-san and muttered.

” ... It’s quite painful to see someone you know get punished.”

“Yeah. But naivety and kindness are different, those standing above have a corresponding responsibility. Luciel-kun, you have to slightly strengthen your heart more.”

Garba-san clapped my shoulder as he instructed the adventurers to transport the individuals converted into slaves to the slave dealer.

Thus, Ienith’s reform began.

Ienith-style reform was happening.

New representatives for the races were recruited regardless if they were recommended or recommended themselves and candidates with greater popularity were chosen.

The representatives pledged to not commit fraud and not issue instructions to commit fraud.

The takeover for the term of office had ended just in time so it was decided that the term would be 2 years as usual.

And then, Brian-san was chosen to assume the role of the leading representative for the next term.

There was fear that collusions may happen if the current system where only the 8 races made the decisions continued.

A double check system was established to prevent fraud. Also, the 4 races that were expelled were recalled and talks about creating a new city together in the near future happened, it's a secret that I would rather be involved with that new city instead of this one.

It is exactly 8 months since I assumed the position of leading representative. The school construction plan that I thought of since the beginning of my domestic affairs plan was finally complete.

“Fu~!”

“Solidification ... complete.”

I had Dolan construct the monument to be placed at the entrance of the school building and the construction of the school was complete with the solidification performed by Paula.

“Dolan, Paula, thank you for your hard work! And everyone has worked hard until today. This school building is now complete!!”

I thrust my fist up and cheers welled up.

Not only Dolan and Paula, I understood that a lot of the residents who spent 10 days constructing the school building had a lot of expectations for it.

For a couple of days after that, there was a lot of aftermaths to be dealt with.

Among them was, as a result of exposure of the professional honey-making race, the Hacchi race, there were many who thought that it was a new industry in Ienith.

However, when the Hacchi tribe representative Haniru-dono gave a single statement, the turmoil converged all at once.

“We produce honey here because it is the residence of our saviour

Luciel-sama. In accordance with that agreement, the Hacchi tribe report directly to Luciel-sama. If you tell us to give a profit to Ienith, we will leave.”

” ... Kuma~!? That won't do kuma! If you hurt the Hacchi race, we will adamantly fight to the last man kuma.”

Brian-dono enlarged and cried out and the bird beastmen were their allies as well so that incident ended.

The fox beastmen were reluctant until the end but apparently they have begun to explore their own new business.

Thanks to that mess and the aftermath to deal with, the plans were slightly delayed and we finally celebrated the completion of the school's construction today.

From requests of parents who wish to have their children attend since the beginning of the construction of the school, the school was expected to welcome about 300 students.

However, since there were many who were unaware of the construction of the school and that it was a school that anybody could attend before Garba-san's speech, there was a possibility that the number would swell to a maximum of 1600 individuals just counting children alone.

Therefore, once they pass the curriculum of the basic course, they are allowed to freely choose the electives in the fields they

want to learn.

Because knowledge differs among the adults, we decided to proceed with a 2-day course on the same topic, followed by a rest day and subsequently, another 2-day course with a different topic.

I thought of beginning by teaching literacy involving reading and writing characters as well as simple arithmetic.

Firstly, literacy will begin with writing their own names, their family names, names of things they usually know, before they advance until letter writing.

Regarding arithmetic, it would be sufficient if they are able to do the basic 4 fundamental rules of arithmetic. (TL: Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)

For the elective courses, I invited lecturers from the Herbalist Guild to talk about herbalism and I've received approval from Jordo-san for disciples with suitable Holy attribute magic from the Healer's Guild to teach.

I did think about having the other attributes as well, but because they would at the very least still possess some degree of attack magic and considering that the school would not be able to cope with it, I decided to refrain from teaching other attributes for the time being. (TL: And so in the future, Ienith becomes the capital of healers and herbalist lol)

I believe that the content to be taught will have to gradually be more diverse in the future but that would be up to Ienith.

Apart from studying, I thought of having recreation classes like martial arts training or jumping rope at the schoolyard but I'll leave that decision to the headmaster.

“The first task would be the open recruitment of students and the corresponding interviews. I look forward to it, Headmistress Naria.”

“Certainly, Luciel-sama.”

“You can stop addressing me with -sama already. Since I have already released Naria-san from your slave contract.”

I said with a smile.

” ...You appointed such a major role to me despite my incompetence and moreover, Luciel-sama, you even dispelled my slave contract.”

“That’s because the person I can entrust the role of headmaster to must have an excellent personality, possess extensive knowledge and have the ability to impart that knowledge ... the only person who fulfils that is Naria.”

“I am not so excellent.”

“Don’t be humble. Jordo-san can already use 「Dispel」 now so when the slaves under the care of the Healer’s Guild reach an employable level, please let Jordo-san know and you can choose to either let them work at the Healer’s Guild or at the school.”

“Understood, sir.”

“Headmistress Naria, I believe it would be extremely difficult but I leave the teachers and students in your hands.”

” ... Lionel-sama also requested for me to strengthen the foundation of this land as Luciel-sama’s land so I will do my very best.”

“Thank you.”

I appointed her as the headmistress in the guildmaster’s room.

When Lionel, Cathy and I were gathered, I called Naria over.

“Naria, I’ll release you from the slave contract.” (Luciel)

“Please wait a moment.” (Naria)

Going with the flow, I continued to speak.

“Apparently, in the Elimasia Empire, there was a renowned General Sen’oni who was peerless under the heavens and tore through the battlefields.

I heard his name was Lionel·Grust·Elfense.

One day, General Sen’oni was poisoned by his allied at a camp away from the battlefield.

They exploited that brief opening to cut his legs.

Then, the cat with the nickname Shun’ei, the cat beastwoman Cathia appeared and protected General Sen’oni.

However, that action was reprimanded by the emperor and she was accused of running from the battlefield.

Apparently, that was the official reason, but the truth was that there were rumours abound that the Empire conducting human experimentations and there were demons entering and exiting the empire and the general who was looking into it was framed.

There was a woman named Lunaria who found out that Lionel and Cathia were dropped into slavery due to treason.

Lunaria had served the Elfense family for a very long time.

Lunaria planned to purchase Lionel and Cathia from the slave

dealer but she was entrapped by them and by the time she woke up, they were on a carriage heading toward Ienith.” (Luciel)

Naria looked at Lionel and Cathy and silently nodded.

“Just like how Naria teach the slaves under the care of the Healer’s Guild, I would like Naria to teach the people who enter the new school that has been completed in Ienith as the headmistress.” (Luciel)

“Lunaria ... you have served the Elfense family well. From now on, become Naria and spend your time doing what you enjoy, nurturing personnel. If you do so, this land will become the foothold of Luciel-sama and I can travel in peace.” (Lionel)

“Leave the 2 of them to me nya. I will work to cover for Naria’s portion nya.” (Cathy)

” ... So it’s already been decided ...” (Naria)

“Instead of His Imperial Majesty, the Prime Minister ... many of the other nobles had suspicious movements.

Perhaps, the demon race is really involved as well.

I also think that joke of a prophecy from the spirits was not completely fake.

When the time comes, this place will be important to allow people we trust to gather.” (Lionel)

... To be reminded of the Spirit’s prophecy that I had forgotten with much trouble ... and it’s the first time I heard about demons related to the empire? I swore in my heart to never set foot into the empire.

“Understood. Therefore ... please, please, return safe and well.” (Naria)

” ... Understood.” (Lionel)

Lionel and Naria stared at each other.

Perhaps it was originally a forbidden love due to the difference in standing ... or rather it felt like it was building up even further ...

“Ah~ I’m sorry to interrupt your loving gaze but you will still be here until the construction of the school is complete and my term in Ienith ends though?” (Luciel)

The 2 of them gave a blank look and began laughing after that but I guess they were trying to hide their embarrassment.

The next day, in front of everyone from the Healer’s Guild, I released Naria’s slave contract.

Then, we agreed to a contract for her appointment as the new headmistress of Ienith's school.

Thus, after my first time dispelling my slave contract, I declared.

“Thus, Naria is the first slave to ascend from slavery.

Due to her personality and her achievements so far, I will appoint her as the headmistress of the newly constructed school.

In the future, when I am dispelling slave contracts or when I am allocating work, if you wish to have your slave contract dispelled under your own will, please come to discuss with me directly.”

When I was climbing the stairs, Naria-san's cheerful expression from the voices of the slaves congratulating her left an impression on me.

“It's been a month since then ... it looks like Naria has fully prepared herself for the task.”

Entrusting Naria-san with the school, with this, the majority of the goals have been reached.

The daily production of the honey factory constructed together with the Hacchi tribe have not increased but it produced a sense of a premium item and sold for a high price and the place to sell it at has been decided as well.

The cotton planted in the fields are growing well and every day the fox beastmen were frantically developing clothes like underwear and towels using cotton.

The fox beastman Forens-san told me that those clothes were requested for by various locations.

Apparently, the fox beastman Forens-san was confused and went out of control when he saw the Hacchi tribe during the riot.

His rampage happened 5 minutes before we reached the location but it was decided that he would also be turned into a slave for that.

I felt that it was way too pitiful so I purchased him.

He loves money, loves doing business and is a serious person who will never conduct any illegal business so I entrusted the work of a head clerk to him.

He's now working hard for the sake of his wife and I told him that I would remove his slave contract if he produces a successor to the role but he said that he do not want to transfer such an incredible workplace to anyone.

I reluctantly set it such that his slave contract would be dispelled 10 years later and I gave him an order that if there was no successor by then, he will spend the next 10 years nurturing a successor but I

was surprised when he prostrated to receive my order ...

Speaking of slaves, Olga-san was purchased by Garba-san and Warabis-dono was purchased by Grulga-san.

Garba-san was currently investigating various things together with Olga-san.

Apparently, he took charge of Shiela-chan and Olga-san shed tears of joy.

Grulga-san went ahead and returned to Meratoni first.

He left a strong impression on me when Grulga-san looked delighted as he told me that he was going to get along with Warabis-dono to research cooking with Object X.

Warabis-dono had fainted whenever I met them so they left without him leaving any impression on me.

I heard that the executions of the Ienith elders who were the culprit of the incident were gradually being conducted.

It seemed that the new representative of the respective races brought their bodies back to their tribes.

Garba-san refused me in advance saying that he does not want to show me that.

“Luciel-kun’s job is to heal people, so there is no need for you to see that. However ... if there is an afterlife, I hope that you pray for the happiness of the ones who lost their lives.”

Garba-san asked that of me.

Garba-san nominated Kefin to attend in my place so, without a doubt, the executions were being performed.

“All that’s left is, as long as the general hospital at the healing district is completed and the attraction of adventurers is entrusted to the new representatives, my work in Ienith would finally end ... I’ll stay sharp and persist until the end.”

As I recalled the various events that occurred in Ienith, I braced myself knowing that I would be thrown off my feet whenever I let my guard down.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 102: Respective Paths

For a short period of time, the burnt down building in the healing district was left untouched.

After finding out who burnt down the building, the beastmen who were looking forward to the healing district started a large movement.

I heard of the movement the day after the construction of the school was resumed.

The beastmen set aside free time to begin cleaning up the building that had become charcoal.

They most likely have a lot to think about after this incident ... but it looks like they have begun to think about what would be good for the future of Ienith and took action. By the time the school was complete, the burnt healing district had been cleanly converted into a vacant lot.

This time, the country's treasure was boosted so a budget was properly organized during the Ienith representative meeting for the construction of the healing district and I received the order for the construction.

The construction of the healing district began immediately after the completion of the school building.

Dolan took the helm as the master builder and Baderu's squad members all became leaders and taught the half-breed beastmen, Dollarstar-san and the other beastmen, construction techniques.

I had them pledge to not conduct any misdeed or obstruct the process as a countermeasure against incidents similar to the previous sabotage, but the beastmen told me that they wish to construct the healing district building together and they did not look down on the half-breed beastmen.

We procured materials from the undeveloped forest, gathered magic stones from the labyrinth that had calmed down and made preparations for the opening of the school.

“We've managed to prepare a lot of parchments but I'm glad the development was in time.” (Luciel)

“Luciel-sama's idea was awesome.” (Paula)

“It was truly an unexpected blind spot.” (Rician)

The collaborators Paula and Rician have completely become rivals and successfully developed the magic sheet and magic pen.

“It can be written on countless times and erased countless times. An excellent item that can also recall words and calculations.” (Luciel)

“With its word recall capability, minstrels can read and write

their songs and if calculations can be recalled, people would not be fooled even if they are not merchants.”

“Well, it would be great if it comes to use in that manner.”

I felt that the 2 of them were really close.

Since they were always together.

Is this what they call birds of a feather flock together?

“This time, when the construction is complete, it will be the end of the work that I asked of the 2 of you. So, regarding your path from then on ...” (Luciel)

“I will let grandfather decide.” (Paula)

“I will follow where my lifelong rival goes. However ... just like Naria-san. I wish to be hired as Luciel-sama’s researcher ...” (Rician)

It seemed like Rician had always wanted to tell me that.

“Ask Dolan if you want to be hired as a researcher. I’ve entrusted the recruitment of researchers and engineers to Dolan. If Dolan refuses, I wish to hire Rician as a manager of the fields. I’ll still pay you a salary so I don’t mind if you continue to research on magic tools when you’re free.” (Luciel)

” ... You won’t change your mind right?” (Rician)

I was firm until the end so this time, Rician withdrew as well.

“Before you shoulder a person’s life, you must first know yourself well. That’s why I entrust it to an appropriate person instead of myself. I trust and have confidence in Dolan and technique-wise he is more qualified than the clueless me.” (Luciel)

“Trust and have confidence in.” (Rician)

“At first, I was troubled with them going wild. However, I understand that lately, not only are they planning properly, I have confidence in their engineering and they have not gone wild. That’s why I could come to trust them.”

I laughed when I recalled how it was back then.

Paula averted her gaze but it seems like she recalled as well.

“Well then, I want you 2 to help Naria and Dolan. Once that is over, you are free to create what I have given approval for in the list of items you wish to create.”

“Bye.” (Paula)

“If you’ll excuse me.” (Rician)

The 2 of them looked happy when they heard me and ran off.

“I wonder who is the one that doesn’t change their mind ...”
(Luciel)

I muttered with a wry smile.

That night, I called Dolan to the Healer’s Guild guildmaster room.

“Luciel-sama, you called?”

“Yeah. Please sit.”

I had Dolan sit on the drawn chair, confirmed with him the progress of the construction of the healing district and talked about the future.

“What’s the current progress of the building named as the general clinic in the healing district?”

“Healer’s Guild Jordo-dono and Herbalist Guild Smic-dono had a meeting and all that is left is to finish the interior.”

“I see. Once that is over, my term would end as well. What do you want to do?”

“To accompany Luciel-sama. I can only think of that.”

To be looked at with completely unclouded eyes, I became nervous instead.

” ... Don’t you want to return to your hometown, the place where engineers gather?”

“Sheesh ... having my workshop explode and forced to become a debt slave ... that is not a place for me.”

“I see ... to be honest, I wanted you to be my person-in-charge for development there and support me ...”

” ”

“Would you like to stop being a slave and work as the S-rank healer’s, my person-in-charge of technological development?”

” ... I’m grateful.”

“Well then, putting aside if I’ll bring you to Meratoni, would you like to be employed by me?”

“By all means.”

“Thank you. I can dispel Dolan and Paula’s slave contract anytime so please let me know anytime.”

“If that’s the case, I hope to have it done after we return to that city.”

“Okay. I’ll leave everything to you as before.”

“Yes!”

Dolan left the room after his task was over.

“Even though it would have been fine if he told me more since it’s his hometown and there’re the graves of his family there.”

Dolan’s son and his son’s wife went mining in the mine but never came back.

For some reason, there was an explosion in the mine and the 2 of them were involved in it.

Within the chaotic surroundings, Dolan could not leave Paula’s side.

Even though the search parties went on for many days, the 2 of them never came back.

I found out about that from the exchanges I had through mail with Grand-san. Also, after finding out that Dolan is with me, Grand-san wanted to construct a new workshop at the place where Dolan's workshop once stood. (TL: Grand is the weaponsmith dwarf working for the Saint Schull Church Luciel met in Ch42)

During his own expedition, Grand-san found out that something happened to Dolan and he tried various methods to search for them but he could not find them.

“All that's left is Kefin and the others huh.”

I returned to my room arms crossed as I was troubled and practiced magic circle chants before I went to bed.

Incidentally, I had the elf Milfeene work in the factory and I had already dispelled her slave contract.

Milfeene looked uneasy after Naria-san was appointed as headmistress so I called her to the guildmaster room and she told me about the instructions from the water spirit.

I listened to the talk regarding the spirit priestess but I wondered why she suddenly revealed it and asked her, apparently she could no longer resist the pricks of her conscience.

“Even though that happened, nothing changed and I continued receiving contact from the spirit. As expected, it is impossible to continue keeping silent about it.” (Milfeene)

I could not believe her words but she properly does her work, she could aid in the growth of the plants using spirit magic and her compatibility with the Hacchi tribe was good so I had her stay.

She was moved to tears.

“Thank you. Even though Spirit-sama told me to find the spirit priestess, I don’t have such special abilities ...”

Evidently, she was bad with fighting and she was completely taken to this environment where she could occasionally receive delicious honey.

Next, the half-elf Crecia apparently admires Naria-san and she requested to become a teacher in the school.

Naria also vouched for Crecia so when I hired her as the school’s teacher, I dispelled her slave contract and once again signed another contract, this time, an employment contract with her as a teacher.

The truth was, if only Crecia wasn’t flustered in battle, she would do well as a combatant with her forte in archery and dual sword technique as she harbors a strong admiration for Sir Rainstar.

Her ability is ... far above mine so she’s very strong.

Even though my status was higher, I was miserably steamrolled countless times so I decided to stop looking at status.

There, Crecia taught me the harshness of reality and cleared my misunderstanding thinking that I had become stronger because my level went up.

After that day I experienced actual combat, I understood the teachings Instructor Broad drilled into my head and it's a secret that the amount I trained increased after that.

I think that the 2 of them wished to grasp newfound happiness in Ienith from then on.

The next day, when I interviewed Kefin and the others, apart from Kefin, they declared that they wanted to remain in Ienith.

Furthermore, including Kefin, they all wanted to remain as slaves.

"I wish to follow Luciel-sama but the others want to remain in Ienith.

Hereafter, it is still not yet known if this country will really become better.

Which is why they wish to protect this underground factory and the school that Luciel-sama laid down until that day arrives.

Moreover, if criminal slaves such as ourselves are released so easily, there would definitely be people who will develop an antipathy towards Luciel-sama.

Therefore, we all thought that it will be better if our slave contracts are dispelled after we have worked for another 5 years or 10 years.” (Kefin)

Seeing Kefin and the others put so much thought into it compared to myself, I was reminded of how naive I am and I accepted their proposal.

However, they requested that I remain as their owner.

The reason was that as my slaves, they would not be hassled by the adventurers.

At a later date, I found out from Jasuan-dono that I was at the top of the list of people to definitely not be at odds with and as my slaves are my property, it was true that they would be protected so I remained as their owner.

The general clinic in the healing district formed from the combination of the Healer’s Guild and Herbalist Guild was completed.

The first floor was equipped with the general reception and treatment rooms.

The second floor was made such that one can peruse books on healing and herbalism.

The third floor became a cafeteria and it was designed such that the public could not enter from here onwards.

The fourth floor was the residential space for men and the fifth floor was the residential space for women.

Also, the basement was designed to be a compounding room for herbs and they came up with a solution to prevent smoke from leaking out of the basement like what happened the previous time.

I was forced to assume the position of the first generation chairman of the clinic for only a day and there was when I first found out that Jordo-san is a person who does not like to stand out.

I felt as if the next few months passed in the blink of an eye.

I was currently giving a speech for the opening of the school.

“Hi, I am the S-rank healer Luciel.

I am pleased that Ienith’s school could open on such a great day blessed with fine weather.

I'm deeply thankful for you all founders who dedicated much effort toward the completion of the school.

And for all students of the maiden class, congratulations.

The trigger that sparked the thought of establishing this school was the conflict between races as well as the discrimination toward the half-breed beastmen.

People are not born to equal standings.

However, I believe that everyone has an equal right to learn.

What I want to convey to the 8 races, is my wish that through learning here, you will broaden your own possibilities and greater your chance to become an inventor, a herbalist, a merchant or anything you want to be.

And, through studying here, I hope that you all will cultivate your thinking and propel Ienith forward in the future.

For you all who took the initiative to clean up the burnt down healing district, you all who took action to make Ienith a better place, I believe my hope will definitely come true.

A year has passed since I first came to Ienith, I apologize for being blunt but I don't have good memories of Ienith.

The targetting of my life since the first day I arrive, interference at our healer demonstration, conquering of the labyrinth.

The variety of interference I received after my appointment as representative, the numerous cases of fraud that continued to appear the more I tried to solve them.

A perfect example would be the Ienith massive riot.

If the completion of this school brings all of you even a slight bit of happiness, it will be my happiest memory of Ienith.

As I pray for that to come true, I will end my speech.

Congratulations to everyone for enrolling into the school.”

That night after I finished my speech at the ceremony, I was scolded so fiercely by Naria-san that my feet shook but I won't talk about that.

The morning the next day, before sunrise, with me riding Fornoir, Lionel riding another horse beside me and finally Kefin acting as coachman for the carriage, we departed from Ienith.

Within the carriage was Cathy, Dolan, Paula and Rician and we first headed for Dolan and Paula's hometown.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Thus, the 6th volume is finally complete.

Book 7: The Engineer Village

Chapter 103: Sudden Magic Tool Idea

We reached a place that was slightly over a day's travel from the borders of the Saint Schull Allied Nations.

“Without the sensation of pulling a carriage, horses sure can run considerably fast.” (Luciel)

“It's the first time I've seen a carriage with this amount of gravity mitigation.” (Lionel?)

“Really? Nevertheless, we're only a day from the national borders but this has been the first time a year felt so long to me.” (Luciel)

“That's how it goes when you're doing something you're not accustomed to. Well then, we're heading left along the wall after the pass the border right?” (Lionel?)

“Yeah. I made sure to confirm the location and Dolan and Paula said so as well so there's no doubt about it.” (Luciel)

“It would be great if there are settlements like villages nearby though ...” (?)

“Well, even if there aren't any ... rather, ha~ there are a lot of monsters here as well.” (Lionel?)

In front of us were large monitor lizards and huge snakes that were obstructed the way forward and were intimidating each other but I could tell that they noticed us and were beginning to be wary of us.

“Maybe they came from the valley that spans to the left.” (Lionel)

As Lionel calmly analysed beside me, I took out my holy dragon spear from my magic bag and readied myself.

“Well then, maybe I’ll try fighting with a spear on horseback according to your lecture. I’m relying on you, Fornoir.” (Luciel)

“I’ll have the honour of being the vanguard this time as well.” (Lionel)

A voice came from my side along with the figure of a cat beastwoman dashing out at considerable speed.

“I’m bored so I’ll be joining in nya.” (Cathy)

Lionel and I exchanged glances before we chased after Cathy and joined the battle.

Grasping onto the reins with my left hand, I change the grip on my spear to both my hands the instant I pass by a monster and firmly fix myself on top of the horse by sandwiching it with my knees.

Since Fornoir can read the opponent's attacks, I solely concentrate on a single point of the monster and thrust with my spear.

Even if the timing is superb, as expected, it is still far more difficult compared to fighting on foot so I passed by the monsters without being able to defeat it.

And by the time I steered back around, Lionel and Cathy have already slaughtered them.

“Burururu.”

I stroked the slightly disheartened Fornoir to apologize before I returned to where the 2 stood.

“I understand because Cathy boasts of her speed but why is Lionel so fast too ...” (Luciel)

“Even like this, I was once a general as well. I began jousting from the age of 10 so I already have a career(experience) of more than 30 years.” (Lionel)

Instead of showing a bashful expression, Lionel gave a slightly smug look and began laughing.

“Lionel-sama has never made a blunder on horseback before

nya.” (Cathy)

Cathy, with her quick movements, pierced the brain of multiple large monitor lizards with strikes at single concentrated points and was currently burying the monsters.

“I see ... and so, why did you jump off the carriage?” (Luciel)

“I was bored nya. I stayed on it the whole time for the first day so I got off to come and get permission nya.” (Cathy)

” ... Or perhaps you were sick of the magic discussions?” (Luciel)

” N, no that’s ... not wrong nya. They’ve been endlessly chanting some weird incantations nya. I’ll be defeated mentally if I stay there nya.” (Cathy)

“Then wouldn’t it be fine if you swap with Kefin to be the coachman?” (Luciel)

“Look at Kefin properly nya. Regardless of being the coachman, his eyes are looking off into the distance nya.” (Cathy)

Hearing that, I looked over to Kefin and his eyes were certainly gazing off into the distance.

“What about Dolan?” (Luciel)

“He’s pleased that his granddaughter made a friend so he’s completely become a good-natured old man nya.” (Cathy)

..... It’s true that it’s difficult to find a friend to talk about magic tools even if you try to look for one.

“I won’t change our pace you know?” (Luciel) (TL: Cathy’s running on foot.)

“No problem nya. If I’m tired, I’ll return to become the coachman or return to that devil’s cave.” (Cathy) (TL: Her devils cave refers to the carriage)

Cathy’s tension has gradually been dropping so I gave her permission to stay outside.

Around the time we spot the highway after running on horseback for about an hour, the canyon slowly faded away and a forest began to spread across our left.

“Monsters live in forests like these so we better stay vigilant.” (Luciel)

“Well, this is already part of the Saint Schull Allied Nations so there probably won’t be any strong monsters that appear.” (Lionel?)

“I’m troubled because that’s not absolute ...” (Luciel)

Monsters aren't restricted to being above ground after all.

We occasionally encounter surprise attacks from the sky and there are monsters that appear from underground so I could not be at ease.

That's when I had a thought.

If we have a monster detection device that can detect monsters, there wouldn't be a need for such worries?

During our noon break, I asked the 3 of them if it can be built and they were shocked.

"So there's such a method!" (Dolan or Rician)

"Genius of insight!" (Paula)

"If that can be done, people's hope of living without fear of monsters may come true." (Rician or Dolan)

They 3 of them said so and plenty of terminologies began flying about, I was completely chased out as an outsider.

"... It won't be strange if countries use that for military purposes one day."

Lionel leaked out those words as he sighed.

“Even so, I think that it was conceived according to the need of the people nya.”

Cathy looked distantly into the future.

“We’ll prove that Luciel-sama made it for the sake of peace.”

Kefin said as he clenched his fist.

Lionel’s train of thought left me in the dust as I completely did not consider military use but this finally achieved a fresh restart. (TL: Don’t know what restart the author’s talking about, restart Lionel’s militaristic thinking/nature? or start a new direction for their journey?)

“However, I’ve surprised that Dolan can cook.”

When I murmured that, Dolan who was supposed to be having a magic tool discussion, was beside me without me realising and he told me the reason.

“I’ve put in a lot of effort to properly raise Paula.”

“I see ... because of that, Paula never learned how to cook and dream of becoming a magic tool engineer huh?”

” I’m reflecting on it but I only slightly regret it.”

So he does regret it slightly.

” ... It might be possible to develop a magic tool that can automatically cook vegetables that you put into it.” (Luciel)

“?! A genius of insight after all!” (Paula)

“I’ll definitely have to make that!” (Rician)

Since Rician can’t actually cook as well, the 2 of them were sold on the idea even more than the one before.

“Do you have any ideas on how to do it?”

“It’s alright even if it is something insignificant.”

“Eh? Hmm~ ... Maybe if it could execute the steps in a recipe in sequence after you put in the ingredients?

Also, it’s slightly different, but if the water content in the cooking could be extracted via high pressure after rapidly freezing it, we may be able to create something similar to emergency rations that can be reconstituted using hot water.

Even now when making dried meat, they are prevented from going bad using salt and spices and used for soups and such, but if that technology can be established then people might be able to eat tasty cooking just by adding hot water?” (Luciel)

I spoke according to the explanation for freeze dried food products I saw on the television during my previous life. I don’t know if it can be reproduced in this world but there’s no harm in trying so I suggested to the 2 of them.

“Monster detection device and food preservation ... a genius after all ... or perhaps ...” (Paula)

“Paula, in order to successfully make that, we have no choice but to combine our techniques.” (Rician)

“Okay. Even if a person can’t cook, they can cook just by adding hot water. That is the dream of mankind.” (Paula)

“The world will change.” (Rician)

As the 2 of them gestured with their hands, they exchanged a firm handshake and once again began their discussion of magic tools.

When I was freed from there, Lionel and the others had surprised looks on their faces.

” ... What?”

They all seldom stared so intently at me so I tried asking.

“To use the miracle light at that young age, to come up with the idea for people to not get ambushed by monsters and to envision the magic tool to preserve food for a long period of time ...”

Unlike always, Lionel’s voice became softer as he neared the end of his sentence.

“I’ll also want to have them once either of them is completed nya.”

Cathy reacted like I had imagined so I inadvertently laughed.

“I’d like to hear if you have any ideas on weapons and armours.”

Dolan was hoping for any interesting ideas for blacksmithing.

” ”

Finally, only Kefin was left staring at me with a fervent look.

Is it that? ... When Kefin and the others failed in their attack on the Healer’s Guild, the magic bra and magic underwear that gave greater effect in a set that were peeled off by Dolan and Paula and passed to me?

“Sorry but I don’t swing that way.” (Luciel)

“Hah?” (Kefin)

He replied with a straight face so it doesn’t seem to be because of that.

” ... Why were you staring at me like that?” (Luciel)

“Eh ... no, it’s because I realised that I’ve achieved one of my goals.” (Kefin)

... Goals huh.

I was having chills up my spine so I’m glad I was wrong.

“That’s good if that’s the case. Work hard.” (Luciel)

“Yes.” (Kefin)

Kefin nodded happily.

Thus, after we ended our noon break by exchanging such idle chats, we once again resumed our journey to the city of Rockford where engineers gather.

Author's note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 104: Earthquake, Monsters, And Uneasy Feeling

Nothing happened for 2 days after we began travelling on the highway, no particularly strong monsters appeared and we proceeded smoothly.

Then, it happened when we had our guard down at dusk.

『Gogogogogogo』 (TL: SFX for rumbling noises)

At first, I thought I was mistaken but the earth gradually began to shake.

“Is it an earthquake?”

The shaking subsided immediately after I had lowered my body to balance myself ... but the earthquake caused one serious problem.

He was beside the fire so I happened to look at him but Dolan was acting strangely.

“Dolan, are you alright?”

I asked Dolan but he was ashen faced and sweating profusely.

“I, I’m alright.”

Even though he said that, Dolan’s eyes were vacant.

After I approached Dolan and applied 「Recover」, his eyes gradually regained their focus and it felt like his state of turmoil subsided.

” ... Perhaps the earthquake reminded you of the time you lost your arms?”

” ... As expected of the S-rank healer-sama Luciel-sama to see through me ... that’s right. I’ve wondered countless times if only the earthquake didn’t happen then.

If that didn’t happen, then I wouldn’t have lost my arms and the workshop wouldn’t have been blown away.”

I wondered if Dolan was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

“I see. However, you protected Paula in exchange for those arms right?”

” ... Right. That’s right. Furthermore, my arms are perfectly fine now ...”

Dolan was agitated but he forcibly smiled and clenched and

relaxed his grip before he regained his composure.

“Dolan, I do not understand your feelings.

But I can apply healing magic on you and you can consult me. It might become easier if you talk about it.

If you feel even the slightest bit unwell, please come to speak to me.”

” ... I guess my luck is somehow very good.”

Dolan looked at me and smiled.

Paula looked at Dolan who mostly regained his composure and showed a relieved expression.

I didn't think that it was fortunate but I'm glad that Paula didn't show any symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

“Dolan, I'm quite certain that earthquakes happen quite frequently in Rockford since a couple of years ago? Should we change our course to Meratoni?”

It's not like ... we must go to Rockford.

Actually, I remembered that there's a dragon there as well so I

don't really want to go there too ...

However, Dolan is not the type of person who complains.

“It's alright. I have the mission to create that and I want to tell their graves that I've once again become a blacksmith.”

Dolan showed me his usual expression.

“Alright if that's the case. Well then, I'll quickly prepare dinner.”
(Luciel)

“It looks like we'll need to do some monster extermination before that.” (Lionel)

“Nya?! This time, it's from underground nya. The monsters are some ant-like monsters nya.”

“Enter, Fornoir.”

She immediately entered after I turned the Key of the Hermit and ordered her to enter the stables.

“I'll let you out once the combat is over.”

After saying that, I turned the key and the door disappeared.

“How many are they?” (Luciel)

“About 20 to 30 nya.” (Cathy)

“Ants have strong vitality and attack using bites or fluid that can solidify so evade them.” (Dolan)

Dolan’s voice echoed after Cathy’s voice.

“Are you alright without resting?”

“I’ll precisely strike and crush them and get my hands on earth attribute magic stones.”

Dolan had returned to his usual self.

“That’s reassuring. Even if you lose your arms, as long as you don’t lose your life, I will save you. So send them flying!”

“Yeah!”

Dolan readied his great hammer.

Beside him was a 3 meter-class golem in a fighting pose attacking the ants.

The ant monsters were ... weak.

“Their weak but aren’t their numbers progressively increasing?”

I occasionally forget that the equipment I’m holding have cheat-like performance but the magic-channelled Holy Dragon Spear and Illusionary Sword are both able to split the hard back of the ants in two.

“They’re gradually increasing huh.”

“They’re quite tough nya.”

“If that’s the case, let us finish this in one go, Paula.”

“Got it grandpa.”

The 3 meter-class golem became 5 meter-class and crushed the ants by stepping on them using the sole of its feet.

That’s completely a stomping attack.

The kick attack was a plain toe kick as well ... Should I use that as inspiration to construct that? Or maybe the day that I ask them about it is coming. (TL: No idea what’s he talking about. My guess is Luciel wants Dolan to make a Gundam lol)

The combat ended as I was deep in thought.

“That’s probably too strong if it can be used indefinitely.”

“It’s certainly true that if the mechanism is unknown, it doesn’t feel like you can win nya.”

“It looks like a good simulation for anti-giant combat.”

I know that Lionel is a battle maniac so I ignored Lionel’s words.

“It’s dark so we’ll strip the ants tomorrow. However, please remain vigilant and check if they are properly dead.”

After I took out torches from my magic bag and passed it to them, I stored the carcasses in my magic bag and cast purification magic.

“There’re at least 50 ant monsters but is it usual for this area to have so many monsters?” (Luciel)

“The number of monsters increases when the earthquake becomes more active but to be honest, I don’t know much about what’s going on lately.” (Dolan)

” ... There aren’t any labyrinths in the area around Rockford right?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. There are several mines scattered about but there aren’t any that have become labyrinths.” (Dolan)

So there's a possibility that they may become a labyrinth if we're unlucky?

Or perhaps ...

“Is it possible that the mines themselves are labyrinths?” (Luciel)

“The monster bodies remain so they shouldn't be labyrinths.”
(Dolan)

Dolan said.

“Today we'll camp in three shifts.”

After announcing that, I lighted the monster repelling incense I purchased from the Herbalist Guild.

However, I didn't know how effective it was outdoors so I had us do 3 shifts.

Monsters did not attack until dawn but the ants from yesterday came from underground so there were 50cm-sized holes on the ground.

“They look exactly like pitfalls. Don't you think that carriages will fall into it if their wheels get stuck?” (Luciel)

“That’s true. Considering how many ant monsters there were, it might be better if we slightly reduce our speed.” (Kefin or Lionel?)

“It’s been going smoothly until now but I guess we should do that.” (Luciel)

While feeling relieved that there are no ant monsters in Ienith, I took out the carriage from my magic bag.

We’ll arrive in another 3 or 4 days so we once again departed for Rockford.

“Yesterday the ant monsters did not fly or spit fluids and they were weak as monsters ... do you think they were scout types?” (Luciel)

“I’m not that well-versed in the study of monsters but while monsters have the common variants, there are those with stronger bodies and mutants as well as upper-class monsters so that line of thought might be reasonable.” (Lionel)

“I wonder if there is a peaceful large country somewhere.” (Luciel)

“If it’s the Independent Magic City Nelldal where the Magician Guild’s headquarter is, they apparently get attacked by bizarre bird-type monsters like wyverns and griffons but there are mechanisms to prevent them from entering so it is comparatively

safe.” (Lionel)

“I can’t really have a peace of mind with the mention of bizarre bird-type monsters like wyverns and griffons but do they have some barrier set up? And why is it only flying monsters?” (Luciel)

“The Independent Magic City Nelldal is a magical city that floats in the air made hundreds of years ago from the combined effort of the hero, philosopher, and spirit magician. I heard that it is not governed by any country and signed non-aggression pacts with multiple countries.” (Lionel)

” ... I didn’t expect there to be pioneers ... or rather, there wasn’t any literature about a flying city in the books that I read when I was studying though?” (Luciel)

“That’s because of that right. There are various kinds of constraints regarding Nelldal and since it moves in the air, we don’t even know its current location.” (Lionel)

It couldn’t be drawn onto maps so they did not write about it huh, isn’t that slightly high-handed ...

” ... Sure sounds good~. Floating city.” (Luciel)

“It’s unrelated to battle so I don’t really like it but now that I think about it, they are at odds with the Healer’s Guild.” (Lionel)

” ... Why?” (Luciel)

“If my memory serves me right, it’s due to conflicts because the gods they have faith in are different.” (Lionel)

I knew it anyway.

Life is not so simple ...

“So it’s more realistic to create the monster radar as soon as possible huh?” (Luciel)

“We’ll protect you if monsters come so there’s no need to fuss about that so much.” (Lionel)

” ... I hope so, thank you.” (Luciel)

It was when we were having that conversation.

When I thought that the horses pulling the carriage were beginning to be agitated, another earthquake happened.

“Ku ... Okay, you’re great, Fornoir.”

Even when the earthquake happened, Fornoir didn’t move in the slightest.

Lionel properly controlled his horse so it calmed down.

The earthquake stopped after 30 seconds but I judged that it would be bad to let the agitated horses pull the carriage so I ushered them into the hermit's stable for them to relax.

“You look better compared to yesterday ... 「Recover」.” (Luciel)

“Thanks. This time, I confirmed that I have my hands countless times so I wasn't in such a disarray but my body was still trembling.” (Dolan)

“That probably can't be helped.” (Luciel)

Dolan's complexion was bad but it wasn't as bad as yesterday and his eyes were properly focused.

He seemed somewhat relieved after I applied 「Recover」 on him.

With Dolan's tenacious spirit, he'll definitely overcome it so I look forward to it.

Then, Cathy's voice rang out.

“Same monsters as yesterday are coming again nya.” (Cathy)

“Don't push yourself.” (Luciel)

“I’d like to see Paula’s delighted expression with magic stones.”
(Dolan)

Dolan is still Dolan after all.

Same ant monsters as yesterday suddenly appeared from holes and surged out.

I applied 「Area Barrier」 and we simultaneously ran toward the ants.

“It’s amazing when you properly look at them.”

The surging ant monsters swarmed as they approached but since we could defeat them with a single attack, even I was fine as long as I wasn’t surrounded.

Lionel swung his flaming greatsword as he beat, burned and blew away the ants with amazing vigour.

Thanks to that, although we did not have any cooperation or could not be careless, it didn’t feel like a tough battle.

As we continued to defeat them, I saw an ant with wings spread out come out of the hole but its wings were cut off with flying wind blades and it fell down.

Rician must have been using spirit magic.

“I wasn’t of any use yesterday so I’ll work for my share today.”

She locked eyes with me and said as she once again sent out wind blades to attack another ant monster.

The battle did not last for that long but I was concerned about the greater number of monsters compared to yesterday and the appearance of the upper-class monster as well.

“Are the earthquakes precursors to the appearance of monsters?”

” ... It might be safer to assume so.”

“Do you think Rockford is safe?”

“The earthquakes happen frequently but including from underground, there haven’t been any monsters that have entered the city.”

“That’s great if that’s true.”

As I collected the ant carcasses, I prayed that nothing happened to Rockford.

Thus, we received attacks from the ant monsters a couple of times but at noon on the fourth day, we finally arrived at the city of Rockford where craftsmen and engineers gather.

Author's note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 105: The Hometown Of Researchers And Engineers

The town said to be the gathering place for researchers and engineers gave me the feeling of a cosy place.

Instead of a city, it certainly gave a stronger impression as a town so, on a whole, it was small in size.

Rockford was the final stop on the highway.

I found that the town was built on a wide empty land surrounded by mountains.

“It’s called Rockford so I imagined a more rocky place but it’s surprisingly normal.”

We’ve arrived at the town so I housed Fornoir and the horses in the Hermit’s stable and stored the carriage in my magic bag before slowly surveying the cityscape.

The dwellings felt like they were built with bricks and concrete and there were no buildings made of wood.

In addition, contrary to the place where engineers and researchers gather, there weren’t any visible large workshops that leave such an impression.

“That’s because this town is a dummy. I believe you have not seen anybody around right?”

Dolan mentioned so I once again looked around the town of Rockford and it certainly was a ghost town without anybody living in it.

“This way.”

Paula looked like she was feeling nostalgic and was walking ahead.

“Watch ou?! Ha?”

Paula looked like she was going to slam into a wall as she was looking over here so I inadvertently called out but Paula ... didn’t slam into the wall and her body was swallowed into the wall instead.

“Illusion?” (Luciel)

“That’s right. It’s the effect of a magic tool created to hide the people from foreign enemies by expertly using the refraction of light. This place is full of oddballs but there are also many who are chased by various entities ...” (Dolan)

“It’s amazing nya.” (Cathy)

“It’s a glimpse of the technology that was the reason why the Empire failed their attempted attack on this place.” (Lionel)

“Gahaha. This is just the beginning.” (Dolan)

Under the guidance of the abnormally high-tensioned Dolan due to the praises to his own town, we also stepped into the wall.

It was a pretty amazing otherworld version of projection mapping that could display a fake wall despite it being daytime now.

“Wouldn’t one be able to do anything with such technological capabilities?”

Nobody heard my murmurings.

What awaited us after we were swallowed by the wall were ... golems.

“I’d like to be spared from being forced to fight with these though...” (Luciel)

“A new golem would rise at the same time you destroy one so it’s a waste of time.” (Dolan)

Paula was waiting for us in front of a golem.

“Hurry.” (Paula)

With her delighted expression, Paula looked like a child proud of her own home.

“Paula, it’s the first time we’re here?”

Rician chided her as we continued to walk forward. The golem began to move and spoke.

【Answer the riddle if you wish to pass through here】

Seems like we could pass if we answer the question.

I was looking forward to it slightly.

【Name the technique where one circle and clutch their arms around the waist of their opponent from behind, throw them backward, and form a bridge while maintaining the clutch on their opponent.】

Huh?

“German Suplex.” (Paula)

【The road shall open】

” ... What’s with that question just now?” (Luciel)

“The founder who made this made it such that the questions come from the selected genre but there are a lot of strange genres. Furthermore, if you try to forcibly pass through, the golems would attack.” (Dolan)

” ... Then just now?” (Luciel)

“Most likely a question on the techniques from professional wrestling. Paula played with the golems a lot so before I knew it, she had memorised them.” (Dolan)

There are professional wrestling techniques in this world? In the first place, I didn’t learn any professional wrestling techniques when I was studying Taijutsu under Instructor Broad.

“Incidentally, what happens when you’re wrong?” (Luciel)

“Nothing in particular.” (Dolan)

“Nothing?” (Luciel)

“You’ll understand when we continue on ahead.” (Dolan)

” ... Incidentally, what are the other questions?” (Luciel)

“There are scientific questions like the temperature for water to vaporise or the definition of water vapor explosion. There are also questions like the kind of ores attainable from the mines or extremely difficult calculation questions appear if you choose mathematics.” (Dolan)

” ... Who was the founder of this place?” (Luciel)

“It ought to be Sir Rainstar. Apparently, he stayed here for a couple of years and developed various things.

I heard he gathered engineers and researchers who could not resist trying to figure out what they can do with their own techniques.

Rockford was built by those people holding various kinds of techniques.

This place being called the hometown of researchers and engineers only happened after then.” (Dolan)

” ... It sounds outrageous, in many ways.” (Luciel)

“If you ask me, I think Luciel-sama is similar too. Since you’re still so young, I have a premonition that you will become a heavyweight that surpasses Sir Rainstar.” (Dolan)

Dolan walked on ahead as he said so and laughed.

” ... I should make a magic tool that somehow manages to transform me into another person.” (Luciel)

I made a new resolution and chased after the backs of everyone.

After passing the golems, there was a large door with a small door on its right.

Paula ignored them and walked toward the right side wall instead of the doors in front. The moment she placed her hand on the wall, the wall emitted a pale light and split open.

“This is?” (Luciel)

“Magical power authentication. If you do not register your magical power in advance, it will cost you considerable effort to enter.” (Dolan)

... I’m shocked by the gimmicks we’ve encountered until now, but then how did Dolan become a slave?

“Dolan, how did you become a slave? Where did you encounter the slave traders in the first place?” (Luciel)

” ... The request was from the king of the dwarf race of the underground kingdom ... I’d prefer if you do not ask any more than that if possible.” (Dolan)

“Okay. Rather, so there’s an underground kingdom where dwarves live huh?” (Luciel)

“The elves have their country so it’s said that, not to be outdone, the dwarves also built a kingdom underground.” (Dolan)

“I see. Shall we go?” (Luciel)

We entered through the wall that Paula opened before it shut.

After advancing forward, a town ... a city precisely split into districts spread out ahead.

“So other than workshops, there are fields and pastures as well. Moreover, there’s even a sun ...” (Luciel)

“The people who live here are almost all engineers or researchers who own workshops.

However, since they are living, they naturally get hungry too.

There are different approaches like purchasing slaves for the sake of managing the fields and pastures or having their own disciples manage them.” (Dolan)

“Even so, I’m surprised the food can suffice.” (Luciel)

“That’s because the Adventurer’s Guild transport monster meat over once a week and it’s possible to borrow food during emergencies.

We don’t just always remain in this town, if we go out to search for disciples, we also partake on some requests. That’s why it doesn’t feel like it’s inconvenient for living.” (Dolan)

“Home is where the heart is huh.” (Luciel)

“First of all, I’ll have to serve as an apprentice under someone in order to construct my workshop.” (Dolan)

Dolan smiled weakly but it seems like he has a goal in mind.

Also, unlike the fake town, although seldom, we still passed by people and they called out when they noticed Dolan and Paula.

“Isn’t that Dolan!”

“Paula-chan is here as well.”

“He, hey Dolan has his arms.”

“Perhaps Dolan is going to smith again?”

Those voices asked but Dolan ignored all of them.

No, rather, he was stunned after he saw the man standing ahead.

“Elder brother Grand.” (Dolan)

“Long time no see, Dolan. Also, you may have been a junior disciple once but I’m younger so please stop calling me elder brother.” (Grand) (TL: They were both disciples under the same master)

Paula was hugging onto Grand-san and crying.

Although he completely treated all the surrounding people as air, Grand-san separated himself from Paula and slowly approached me before bowing down.

“Luciel-dono, thank you for saving Dolan and Paula.” (Grand)

“Please raise your head. It’s really just a coincidence that I found Dolan and Paula.

They became my slaves solely because Dolan looked like he has the capability so it’s really just by chance.

Furthermore, I want to believe that it could help me repay Grand-san slightly for gifting me the Illusionary Cane.” (Luciel)

After I said so, Grand-san patted my shoulder and smiled.

“I’m glad I really worked hard that time.” (Grand)

“I agree. Well then, could you give us a tour?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. Everyone, please follow me.” (Grand)

We followed after Grand-san.

A look of distress slowly surfaced on Dolan’s face and Paula’s gait gradually became heavier.

However, after they saw that, they both bolted ahead.

“Is it exactly the same as before?” (Dolan)

“No, the rooms increased for that lady elf there so it’s wider than before. Well, I did reproduce the shape and the location.” (Grand)

“I will pay for the cost.” (Dolan)

“No, please allow me to shoulder this. Since Dolan became a slave because you were forced to do the impossible when I wasn’t around.” (Grand)

... The Dwarf Kingdom huh.

I'm interested but I shouldn't thrust my head in too deep.

" ... Then let's split it equally. Since I plan to have Dolan and others create various things from now on." (Luciel)

" ... It somehow sounds interesting." (Grand)

"Please ask Dolan about it. How much is it?" (Luciel)

"It's 8 white gold coins but do you have enough?" (Grand)

"I've earned quite a sum even though I'm like this. Moreover, I pretty much only used the gold for food." (Luciel)

As I said so and smiled, I took out 8 white gold coins from my magic bag and passed them to Grand-san.

" ... I wasn't wrong to think that your concept of money is warped." (Grand)

"Yeah. Oh right. Could I request of you to do some weapon maintenance?" (Luciel)

"Sure. Leave it to me." (Grand)

Thus, we headed toward Dolan and Paula's workshops.

At that time, I was unaware that Lionel and Cathy hardened their determination for a certain matter.

Author's note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 106: The Banquet After Returning

Paula entered the workshop.

Dolan didn't enter ... without entering, he touched the workshop, touched the entrance, and sat down on the spot.

“What's wrong, Dolan?” (Luciel)

“What exactly should I do to repay Luciel-sama and elder brother Grand?” (Dolan)

Something glimmered in Dolan's eyes.

Seems like the surprise was a great success.

Grand-san smiled delightedly as he looked at Dolan.

“From today on, I'll propose plenty of ideas for things I want to be made so please help me actualize each and every one of them.” (Luciel)

“I've been working with that intention all along. However, this is too much of a foul play.” (Dolan)

Dolan could no longer hide his tears.

“Luciel-dono informed me that Dolan was alive and well. I knew that someday you would return. It’s natural to put in the effort for my fellow junior disciple.” (Grand)

“Elder brother Grand!”

The 2 of them gave each other solid hugs.

I missed the chance to speak under the heavy atmosphere but Grand-san noticed it.

After making sure, I spoke to Dolan.

“Look, if you don’t do in, Rician can’t go in too. She’ll be staying here from today onward after all.”

I looked over at Rician and she was looking uncomfortable.

“Sorry. Come along then.” (Dolan)

Thus, we intruded? on Dolan and the other’s home and workshop.

The second floor was built as their living space while there were 3 workshops constructed in the basement.

“The above ground building looked normal but this basement ... I

don't understand.”

The reason why I muttered so was not only because of the size of the workshop.

The size was about 2 times that of the workshop in Ienith, but it was made of semi-transparent glass-like materials that allowed one to guess what is inside and the glass was engraved with numerous magic circles.

“Engraved with sound-proof, vibration-proof, dust-proof, antiseptic and fire-proof magic circles, the walls were made from diamond and Adamantite to allow one to see what's inside in the unlikely event of an emergency. With this, there will no longer be a chance that the workshop gets blown up.” (Grand)

Just by looking, I could tell that it cost an amazing amount of gold so I was convinced.

“This place won't shake even if an earthquake comes. Because we've completely immobilized the ground underneath.” (Grand)

Grand-san's motivations were overflowing.

However, he implied that the mistake that caused Dolan's workshop to explode was influenced by the earthquake after all.

Paula and Rician both had booths that allowed them to peek at each other so they exchanged eye contact that showed their rivalry

as well as their feelings of pouring everything they have into joint development.

Then, Lionel and Cathy who have been keeping silent since we arrived at Rockford spoke.

“Luciel-sama, I wish to request for the master on the apex of the blacksmithing world, Grand-dono, and Dolan-dono to construct armor jointly but ...” (Lionel)

“We understand that it is an impertinent request as slaves nya but we still wish to ask you nya.” (Cathy)

Was Grand-san famous even in the Empire?

As expected~, while thinking so, I accepted their request.

“I’m willing to dispel your slave contracts anytime so the 2 of you can be considered as slave (provisional) ... Grand-san. I’d like to request of you to create armor for the 3 slaves here, is it alright?” (Luciel)

“Even for me as well?” (Kefin)

“You plan to serve as my strength right?” (Luciel)

Kefin was flustered but it’s better to increase our combat strength if we have the choice.

“I agree since it is Luciel-dono’s request. However, I won’t be giving you a discount okay. Also, it’s time to maintain Luciel-dono’s armor as well.” (Grand)

“Thank you. I’m willing to pay as long as it is within my means.” (Luciel)

“Understood. Dolan, you think you can do it?” (Grand)

“I’ll strike my heart and soul into it!! I accept this request. Elder brother Grand, please lend me your strength.” (Dolan)

“Leave it to me.” (Grand)

Thus, it looked like they were going to begin crafting the armor immediately ... but, Grand-san’s next words caused the place to go silent.

“So then, what materials should we craft them with? Monster materials? Or with Mithril, Adamantite or Orichalcum?” (Grand)

“Do you have them in stock?” (Luciel)

“What are you talking about? You brought it with you right?” (Grand)

” ” (Luciel)

What does he mean?

He directed his gaze at me but looks like we'll have to go to the mines.

... Even though we finally arrived at a safe land with a small party ... I could not fire up my motivation to risk my life for the sake of fabricating armor.

As if they perceived my thoughts, 『Gashi Gashi』, Lionel and Cathy grabbed my shoulders.

“Luciel-sama, I won't ask for any more selfish requests, so shall we go to the mines?” (Lionel)

“Luciel-sama, I'll devote myself to serving you so please nya.” (Cathy)

“Yup, no way.” (Luciel)

I turned them down with a smile.

Who would want to go to a mine where some earth dragon or land dragon sleeps!

” ... Is it alright to make the equipment for the 3 of them with the purified dragon scales and bones I passed to you previously to

make the illusionary cane?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. Of course. That’s also quite an amazing material so I’ll have to show my skill.” (Grand)

“I just don’t want to go to the mine. It will definitely take quite some time right?” (Luciel)

“If it’s for the 3 of them ... it will take at least 3 months. At most half a year.” (Grand)

The 3 of them were surprised to hear about the material but it was gathering dust in my magic bag either way so it was more meaningful to use them to save some time and effort.

Moreover, it reduced the risk to our lives.

The armor was for the 3 of them so I had predicted the time required and it wasn’t a problem to me.

“Alright. I plan to visit the town of Meratoni once my armor maintenance and their measurements for their armors are done but would it be alright?” (Luciel)

I can get some training done in half a year after all, and I hope for some wonderful encounters instead of brutal encounters.

“Yeah. No problem. Rather than that, today is the welcoming

party for Dolan and Paula so I'll have you accompany me to drink today Luciel-dono." (Grand)

"Sure. I don't have any strong liquor but I have some specially made mead so I'd like it if you have a taste." (Luciel)

"It's fine as long as it has alcohol. All the better if it tastes good. Strong alcoholic drinks are good but I also welcome liquor that I rarely get to drink." (Grand)

"I'm glad that's the case. Also, would it be alright to dispel Dolan and Paula's slave contracts during the event?" (Luciel)

"Yeah. Of course." (Grand)

"Please wait a moment, if the dwarf king finds out ..." (Dolan)

"Don't worry. I've already had an audience with the dwarf king regarding this matter.

You no longer have to worry about it.

Either way, the dwarf king regrets his decision in the first place.

To allow your promise that he can descend you into a slave or whatnot if you can't present the strongest sword to him." (Grand)

“A promise is a promise ... I did not think that Paula would get caught up in it too.” (Dolan)

“Stop giving strange promises that will cause you regret in the future.” (Grand)

“Elder brother ... I’ll bear that in mind from now on and I plan to create the ideas that Luciel-sama comes up with.” (Dolan)

“Tsk, showing off such a delighted expression. You’ll make me want to jump on board as well.” (Grand)

“So I’ll dispel it tonight?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. Thank you.” (Dolan)

Dolan lowered his head to me.

During dusk that is reproduced in the town of Rockford, for the sake of celebrating the return of Dolan and Paula, the researchers and engineers who finished their work gathered at the town square.

“Gentlemen, thank you for gathering here.

This town’s Strong Arm Engineer Dolan and the golem-loving girl Paula have returned.” (Grand)

The people cheered and various words were tossed to the 2 people.

“The 2 of them are currently slaves ... but I will now dispel their slave contracts.” (Luciel)

I applied 「Dispel」 on the 2 of them.

“With this, the dispelling of the slave contract is complete.” (Luciel)

I told Grand-san and Grand-san gave a large nod.

“The person who had just dispelled their slave contracts is Luciel-dono, the S-rank healer from Saint Schull’s church. He had humanely purchased the 2 of them and protected them.” (Grand)

The inhabitants were at a loss at what reaction they should give after hearing him say the 2 of them were purchased and protected.

“He was a gentle lord that never once beaten or used us. Also, never once reached his hand toward Paula ... worthless.” (Dolan)

『Gan!』 With a soft drum, Paula whacked Dolan’s head as if it was a stand-up comedy tsukkomi.

I smiled when I saw that while the inhabitants roared with laughter.

Looks like their sketch comedy started since long ago.

“I’ve returned. Please take care of me.” (Paula)

Everyone sent cheers over reminiscent of those sent toward idols as Paula cutely bowed to me.

『Paula-chaaann~』

She grew up here since young.

And as an Engineer, Paula must have been raised with love by everyone.

“Everyone in the crowd, I’ve caused you all a lot of troubles. I’ll be in your care from today onward as well.” (Paula)

This time, they replied with a warm applause.

“Today is a good day as well. With Luciel-dono around, I won’t be surprised if we drink too much and get a hangover for 2 days!”

『Oooohh~!』

“To celebrate Dolan and Paula’s return, cheers!”

『Cheers!』

Thus, the banquet began.

“I lamented when I heard that Dolan and Paula became slaves.

Which was why ... I complained to the dwarf king and the gods.

The dwarf king was feeling considerably depressed.

Why didn't you ask for my help?” (Grand)

As Grand-san and Dolan ... -san began drinking, Grand-san began preaching. (TL: He's not used to addressing Dolan with -san)

“My bad.” (Dolan)

“I tried to look for clues to the whereabouts of you 2 ... but in the end, time passed but I couldn't find you.

At that time, a letter arrived from the Healer's church S-rank healer Luciel-dono here.

He mentioned that he had secured the 2 of you, regenerated Dolan's arms and requested me to construct a place that you 2 can return to.

Do you understand how happy I was?” (Grand)

“Thank you, Uncle Grand.” (Paula)

“Mm. Paula didn’t do anything wrong after all.” (Grand)

Grand-san who had completely become a good-natured old man was patting Paula as he continued his preaching toward Dolan.

“Luciel-dono mentioned that I shouldn’t reveal it to anyone else so even I was wounded by the strange look everyone gave me when I was reconstructing the workshop.” (Grand)

Grand-san who should be quite capable of holding his liquor suddenly tipped his head back to drink and the spilled alcohol almost reached me.

“Elder brother Grand, thank you.” (Dolan)

Dolan ... -san faced Grand-san and thanked him by lowering his head.

“Damn it! Don’t say it anymore. But, I’ll have you accompany me to the very end today.” (Grand)

“I believe Elder brother Grand will be the first to collapse so leave it to me to look after you.” (Dolan)

“Bring it on, I’ll make you collapse.” (Grand)

Thus, the 2 of them began their drinking game and Dolan-san and Paula’s welcoming banquet continued deep into the night.

Author’s note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 107: Chance Encounter

The next morning, Grand-san and Dolan-san had a terrible hangover.

According to Paula, dwarves enjoy liquor with high alcoholic content that humans find hard to drink and they certainly are heavy drinkers but it doesn't look like their race is spared from having hangovers.

“They should accept their punishments for over drinking.”

Paula declared and returned to her own workshop.

“Luciel-dono, show mercy, please cast status recovery magic.”
(Grand)

“Luciel-sama, there's some truth in Paula's words but please.”
(Dolan)

The 2 old man crawling on the floor with poor complexions like they were about to die was certainly pitiful so I complied with 「Recover」.

“Oh man~ We drank way too much.” (Grand)

“I thought of getting a morning drink to get rid of the hangover but physically ... I would have to go through something terrible if I

mixed it poorly.” (Dolan)

The 2 of them returned to how they normally were after I applied recovery magic on them.

“By the way, I don’t really like hearing you call me Dolan-san so it’s fine if you just call me Dolan as usual. Our age difference doesn’t matter so please leave behind the honorifics.” (Dolan)

” ... Then, you can call me Luciel as well.” (Luciel)

“Muu, I’ll try.” (Dolan)

“Come to think of it, Grand-san, Toretto-san isn’t with you?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. He seemed to have gotten into a slump lately and before he disappeared he mentioned that he was going to a place that might give him a lot of inspiration.” (Grand)

“So he also experiences slumps as well.” (Luciel)

“Rather than calling it a slump, it’s more like delusions ... oh well. Well then, we’ll start measuring the 3 of them so you can call them over.” (Grand)

“Yeah. The 2 of them ... are most likely looking forward to their new armor.” (Luciel)

“I see. We’ll be starting then Dolan.” (Grand)

“Yes, Elder brother Grand.” (Dolan)

After that, the 2 of them showed serious expressions that gave off the vibes of first-rate blacksmiths and even Lionel seemed overwhelmed by their power.

I had nothing to do so I thought of touring around Rockford.

“It’s dangerous so I’ll tag along.” (Paula)

Paula stopped me saying that it would be dangerous alone.

“I also wish to come along.” (Rician)

Then, Rician raised her hand and conveyed that she also wanted to come along.

Well, she’s now a resident of this place so it’s better if she comes along.

I thought so and agreed to their company.

Incidentally, I’ve already dispelled her slave contract.

“The 3 of us will go together then. But, what’s the danger?”
(Luciel)

“There are various gimmicks set up. Furthermore, your magical power have not been authorized yet.” (Paula)

“Oh. Those things we passed through yesterday huh ... well then Paula, I’ll leave it to you to guide us.” (Luciel)

“I’ll entrust it to you.” (Rician)

“Sure.” (Paula)

After leaving a message at Dolan’s workshop, we left Dolan’s house.

The streets were a mix of beautiful cobbled stones and bare ground, they did not lay cobble stones on top of where there were underground workshops.

In the vicinity of the workshops, sounds like the hitting of iron and the grinding of metal could be heard and there were a large number of places with smoke plumes rising up.

Looking up into the sky, I saw the pseudo-sun made by Sir Rainstar floating in the sky and pondered.

“Is the pseudo-sun floating up in the sky similar to the one made

by Paula?”

“The one here is exactly the same as outside, it rises in the morning and sinks in the evening. It always maintains the same temperature and humidity.”

” ... If that’s the case, then it’s as if the whole Rockford is covered by a huge magical tool?”

“Yeah. Furthermore, it absorbs magic in the air so it can continue operating semi-permanently.”

“It’s as if the inside of a labyrinth.”

“He most likely used a similar technique.”

” ”

I had a slightly bad feeling when I heard that.

Did Sir Rainstar intercept a place that was going to become a labyrinth with the help of the spirits?

Which is why instead of a labyrinth, there are rumors that the dragon sleeps within the mine ... I could not help but think of that possibility.

A ranch was spread out across the back and there was a small plantation there as well.

What caught my eye was the abundance of wells.

I don't understand why so many wells were dug but Rician asked Paula something then.

"This town feels so unbalanced. Workshops and this ranch do not feel like they belong in the same town." (Rician)

"I've heard that it's the hometown of Sir Rainstar." (Paula)

"So he was formerly a farmer?" (Luciel)

"Yeah. But various things happened and he lost it." (Paula)

I see.

None of that was written in the book that I read.

"Is that so." (Rician)

Rician had a slightly dark look after she heard that.

"It's good that there are peaceful locations as well. That's right. I thought we were going to get our magical powers authorized?"

(Luciel)

“We can register it in the town hall at the center of the town.”
(Paula)

... So there are government offices in this world as well huh.

I had that thought in my mind as we headed toward the town hall.

Then, we reached the reception desk but the receptionist wasn't human.

To define it further, it wasn't even a life form.

To define it even further, it was something like an ATM at a bank.

“All you have to do is stand there and answer the voice that comes out. You'll be sent to the entrance of the town if you lie.”

” ... Is that similar to the magic circles in labyrinths?”

“Yeah.”

Was Sir Rainstar a physicist? Or could he even use space-time magic?

Either way, he's too amazing ...

“Is Paula able to develop teleporting technology as well?”

” ... I should be able to establish the theory and technology right before I die. However, I don't have the magic stones needed to make that.”

“The attribute as usual ... is it not possible to ignore that?”

“I've never seen space-time magic stones. I can't begin thinking about what I should do for something that I've never seen before. And the people who hold space-time attribute are only those who have exceeded the space-time.”

Paula rapidly talked with a sorrowful expression ... so the people who can acquire space-time attribute are only the reincarnated individuals or those associated with them?

I feel sorry for Paula but I set my mind to not acquire it.

【Please state your full name.】

【I will measure your magical power pattern.】

【Please state your profession.】

It's full of harmless questions.

However, the last question was a huge problem.

【Are you a reincarnated individual, transferred individual or possessed individual?】 (TL: Basically the 3 usual ways for an otherworld novel, reincarnated as a baby, teleported into the world or mentally transferred into another person)

Paula and Rician were behind me.

If I answer no, the fact that I'm a reincarnated individual will certainly be exposed.

Seriously what a souvenir to leave behind!!

I answered using my last resort.

“Ja” (TL: He said yes in German.)

It seemed like it could hear my answer even though I answered differently in German so I somehow weathered through the situation.

【Registration has been completed.】

I was relieved when I heard that voice.

I was just about to praise myself for coming up with the solution by answering in German to safely ride out the situation but the next instant, my consciousness receded.

When I came to, there was a young man in front of me.

“Here is?”

I was seated on a sofa and the young man was also seated on a sofa with a table in between us.

“This is something like an astral space I created.”

He deliberately drew his finger and a black tea set appeared.

“I mimicked a butler for numerous years so I’m familiar with making tea.”

The young man said with a smile.

I already understood who that young man was.

“You’re Sir Rainstar Gustard right.”

“Yeah. You’re ... Luciel-kun right. You’re the 5th visitor I’ve

met.”

The young man ... Sir Rainstar is a handsome man who wears a gentle smile.

In addition to the abilities mentioned in his biography, his ability to create a space like this is likely to be the reason why the world could not leave him alone.

Why was I brought here? Rather than that, I’m more curious about the other 4 visitors.

“Luciel-kun, are you a reincarnated individual?”

“Yeah. I received a 15-year-old body and was reincarnated into Galdardia.”

“I see. I’m Japanese and a sinkhole suddenly appeared when I was going home after work and before I knew it, I was reincarnated by God Kuraiya into a baby.”

“You were from Japan? Then were you from the Edo or Meiji era?”

“No, the year I died was the year 20xx.”

“Is that so? It was year 20xo for me.”

The time warp is quite significantly different.

A mere few years became more than 300 years here.

“The fact that you’re here means that Philosopher-kun wants to prevent the revival of the demon lord.” (Rainstar)

Demon lord sounds ultra-dangerous though ...

” ... Apparently, a new hero would be born 40 years later and fight with the demon lord.” (Luciel)

“You sure are well-informed ... ” (Rainstar)

The moment he spun those words, I felt magical power.

“What are you doing?” (Luciel)

“Yup. I appraised you. Even though your profession is a healer, it’s admirable that you trained to this extent in just 6 years. Your high abnormal condition resistance is especially fantastic.” (Rainstar)

“Why the talk as if you’re looking from above?” (Luciel)

“Well it’s since I’m the founder of the healer church ... so, have there been any changes to the church?” (Rainstar)

“Yeah. It’s due to the passing of time but ...” (Luciel)

I briefly talked about the problem with healer’s charges, the labyrinth under the church and the incident in Ienith.

” ... Something along those lines. Oh right, the fact that the Pope is your daughter was indeed surprising.” (Luciel)

“I won’t give you my daughter.” (Rainstar)

“Even if you simply wish to say something you had always wanted to say as a father with a daughter, I do not remember having such a relationship with the Pope.” (Luciel)

“Are you not interested in my daughter?” (Rainstar)

” ... It’s a hassle so I’d like to continue with the talk, the reincarnation dragons were sealed by the evil god but I’ve released the holy and flame dragon so it’ll somehow be alright right?” (Luciel)

I felt that it was not funny even as a joke so I returned the talk to the main point.

” ... You’ll lose with just that. No matter what method you use the most you can do is achieve a draw.”

“Why do you say that?”

” ... The main god and the evil god cannot coexist. Similarly, the hero of the light and the hero of the darkness cannot coexist.”

“Ha~”

“The space-time dragon exists but this time, it doesn’t matter. Because the space-time dragon is the temporary appearance of Main God Kuraiya.”

“It’s similar to RPGs where the information comes to light near the end.”

“This is reality ... or not but you will be returning to reality. Rather than that, if the hero does not release the reincarnation dragons, the hero can only use the light attribute while the demon lord can use magic from all attributes except for light and space-time.”

” ... So by releasing them the hero’s attributes increases while the demon lord’s attributes decreases?”

“That’s right. During my time I possessed all the attributes so defeating the demon lord was easier than defeating the evil dragon but conversely, it would have been difficult even with the help of the spirits.”

... This guy, only now does he reveal that he was the hero and he

killed the demon lord.

“You were the hero? But that was not written in your biography though?”

“I only knew much later that the one I defeated was the demon lord and furthermore, I had a dream.”

“Dream?”

“I wanted to create a city in the sky. I was able to use flight magic before I became an adult due to the help from the spirits. I wanted to share with others that excitement.”

” ”

“After the holy and flame dragons, I hope that at the very least you release the basic attributes water, wind, and earth dragons. If you do so, the demon lord should only be able to use thunder, gravity, and poison so it should be fine.”

What do you mean by fine, I totally do not get your meaning.

“I no longer want to expose myself to any more danger than I had already faced so by no means am I going to dive into the labyrinths that give me flashbacks of death to release the seals on the reincarnation dragon or dance to the tune of the spirits.”

That's right.

Survival is my priority so that should be fine.

Fortunately I have money as well, is it not fine if I live my life peacefully?

" ... I don't know the current status of the world but it's most likely tougher than I can imagine."

"Yeah. I'm weak enough to almost immediately die when fighting with normal monsters ... this time, the evil god is involved as well so ..."

"Evil god huh ... ah, time's up. I wanted to talk a bit more but the next time you're able to come here would be a couple of years later at the earliest.

Which is why for now, if you pass through Rockford's small gate and touch the large gate, you should be able to meet the earth dragon.

Also, if you visit the city in the sky Nelldal, call out ... to the central fountain."

"Ha?"

"If you do so, they should definitely become your strength." (TL:

There wasn't any pronoun given so it can be he/she/they.)

“Wait a minute.”

The moment I reached out with my hand, my consciousness once again receded and I was at the town hall when I came to.

“Luciel-sama? What are you waiting for?”

“You look pale?”

Even though we talked so much, it was as if the clock stopped.

Was it because he used space-time magic?

This land might not be a labyrinth but I found out that the earth dragon is indeed here.

Even though it doesn't seem like there's a need to clear a labyrinth ...

Does the fact that there were a lot of ant monsters around this area mean that there's a greater possibility that a lot more ant monsters would appear?

And if I release the earth dragon, the monsters will become weaker?

... I can't make a decision immediately.

Rician and I finished our magical power authorisation.

We had planned to tour around the town after that but Paula and Rician were worried about my poor complexion so we returned to Dolan's workshop.

But, on the way back, I was made painfully aware that in life, one is not given the time to think.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 108: Way To Return

It happened when we were cutting across the central square after leaving the town hall to return to Dolan's workshop.

Just as I thought that the ground was heaving, 『Gooooogogogogooo』, the earth shook and the ground underneath my feet suddenly collapsed.

“Ha?”

That was all I could muster before I was sucked into the hole.

Immediately after I began to fall into the hole, I grabbed the holy dragon spear from my magic bag, channeled magical power into the spear and attempted to thrust it into the wall to stop my fall. However, the moment the tip of the holy dragon spear lit up, the light reflected on the ant monsters that were crawling up the hole.

“Nuu!?”

Instantly, instead of aiming for the wall, I pointed the spear tip at the ant monsters and maintained my free-fall, piercing the ant monsters one after another.

If the spear used to pierce the ant monsters was an ordinary spear, it most likely wouldn't have broken through the monsters.

As the fear from free-falling caused a pulling sensation on my lower abdomen, my attempt to escape from reality was unsuccessful and I tightly clenched the shining holy dragon spear.

Just as I accelerate from the free-fall, there would definitely be ant monsters ahead and piercing them caused me to decelerate, I repeatedly experienced acceleration and deceleration until an inclination gradually appeared on the side wall.

However, perhaps because my falling speed was too fast, it felt like I slid on a steep slide and my body shot off the wall.

Pain ran through my body from the impact.

“E, 「Area Barrier」, 「Heal」, 「Heal」, 「Heal」.”

To ease the pain, I raised a barrier using 「Chant Termination」 and concentrated on repeatedly using 「Heal」to relieve the pain but the holy dragon spear lodged in the wall when I was being occupied.

“Guaaaaaa, 「High Heal」... Why did it get lodged ... ?! A cave?”

My fall was suddenly halted and because my body could not withstand the G-force, the bones on my arm and shoulder, the blood vessels and muscles screamed in pain but I somehow recovered.

“Does this mean I should proceed this way? Leaving that aside,

the 2 of them ... didn't fall down? ... Hasn't my luck been fluctuating erratically recently?"

Making sure that the holy dragon spear doesn't dislodge, I immediately grabbed onto the entrance into the cave-like structure and rolled into the cave while storing the holy dragon spear into my magic bag.

"Ha~. There's seriously been too much going on today."

While keeping wary of my surroundings, I applied purification magic on myself before I took out the transformation mirror Dresser from my magic bag and transformed into my full gear.

"It's been a long time since I dressed up, is this my punishment for being complacent?"

Due to the fall, my clothes were not only dirtied, it was torn in multiple places as well.

I once again sighed grandly before I started moving.

Within the pitch black cave, unlike the faintly lit labyrinths, were hidden dangers of falling from the slightest misstep.

"I'm seriously grateful for Paula and Rician."

Actually, I had them create a mini version of the light used for

the carriage.

I commented to myself that it's lucky that the headlight I had them make in preparation for emergencies came in handy immediately as I readied my shield and illusionary sword and began advancing.

There weren't any traps around but the usual holes were present and the ant monsters vaguely seen in the distance below caused me to tremble.

"As expected, I'll die if I fall into one."

In the darkness, I could see an astounding number of ant monsters.

I have food and plenty of essentials prepared including the light.

The sole problem is how would I return to the town of Rockford, as I pondered on that question, I advanced while being careful as to not fall into the holes.

"... This place gives me the impression that it wasn't dug by the ant monsters but naturally formed instead."

Because the ceiling didn't even reach 2 meters in height, I was uneasy as I had to bend my posture to walk. However, the width was about 3 meters wide so it wasn't that claustrophobic.

There were sharp rocks protruding from the ground but thanks to the light I could avoid them as I advanced.

How far have I walked ... 30? or about 50 meters? After walking for about that distance, I came upon a branching point.

“Well, it’s normal to encounter one.”

I decided to choose the path to proceed by following the direction my illusionary sword falls toward.

“Kuraiya-sama, God of Destiny-sama, Buddha, ancestors, Great-luck sensei, please guide me.”

I entrusted my way forward to them and the illusionary sword did not point to either left or right but to the wall directly in front.

” ... Perhaps ...”

I picked up the sword and touched the wall directly in front, 『Buun』 a sound rang out and a hole opened up in the wall ... and became a path.

... To be exact, the wall disappeared and a path similarly lit like those in labyrinths appeared.

“What would happen if I walk this path? I don’t want to ... but I

feel like the illusionary sword is telling me that I'll find out if I proceed so I guess I'll have to fire myself up."

I decided to proceed along that path.

After walking briefly, there were stairs and after climbing up, a meandering path appeared. There was a single path so I didn't need to spend time like when I was in a labyrinth to proceed.

"Hmm. There's a solemn-looking door for some reason ...? Am I supposed to open it?"

The moment I touched the door, it smoothly opened.

《Rain》

《Rain》

《Rain》

《Not Rain?》

《It's not Rain?》

《Who are you?》

Multiple children voices came from my side when I opened the

door ... but there weren't anybody around.

“Hallucinations ... or more specifically auditory hallucinations huh? Hearing voices when there isn't anybody around, looks like I'm really tired due to Sir Rainstar. Leaving that aside, it sure is spacious.”

It closely resembled the boss room where I fought with the Red Dragon.

It would be good if it's a mole, but if it is an Earth Dragon that shakes the earth, then it would be extremely bad. (TL: Both mole and earth dragon are pronounced the same in Japanese.)

I was thinking about that when I once again heard the voices.

《Hey, you. Why do you smell like Rain?》

《Idiot. Our voices can't reach regular people.》

《Huh~ but it seems like he has Water-chan's blessing.》

《Then, this goofy-faced guy can see our figures too?》

《No, I can feel fluctuations from dragons from this guy.》

《Hey you, you can hear us right?》

Looks like it wasn't auditory hallucinations after all.

Furthermore, even though they sound like children, it sounded somewhat mysterious so I deduced that they were definitely spirits.

" ... I can hear you. I'm Luciel. A hole suddenly opened under my feet and I unfortunately fell down here.

How about I answer your questions if you show me the way back?"

Since I'm currently underground, earth spirits might be able to exhibit oppressive strength so I didn't act impudently.

Regardless of what they say of me ... I continued to cover my expression with an iron mask. (TL: ie. poker face)

《Gyahahaha. This guy's so lame~! Or rather, his luck is way too bad.》

《A clumsy person huh. Well, Rain was the same as well so humans are definitely clumsy.》

《Is that why Water-chan gave you her blessing?》

《You can hear our voices right. Then I wonder why can't you find

the way back?》

《It's probably because he possess the dragon's blessing so he can't see spirits.》

《It doesn't look like he's contracted any so that might be true.》
(TL: it's referring to contracting spirits I guess?)

“How did Sir Rainstar attract them?”

The instant I muttered that, the spirits? answered

《Because Rain's magical power tasted like honey.》

《Although real honey is fine too.》

《Now you've made me feel hungry.》

《Hey, foolish-face. Give me something sweet.》

《Magical power is fine too~》

《He's similar to Rain so maybe his magical power is tasty too?》

There's one annoying spirit but I'll endure for now.

“Erm ... how about I present some honey and magical power if you teach me the way to return?”

《Even though he’s uncool, his heart feels similar to Rain.》

《Even though he’s clumsy, he’s generous like Rain.》

《Maybe that’s why he’s recognized by Water-chan ... ah, this person ...》

《Even though he has a foolish look, he can discern his position and negotiate, he’ll become successful in life.》

《I’ll teach you, so please.》

《I’ll throw in extra so give us plenty.》

Just slightly talking with them caused my fatigue to accumulate but I took out a large bottle from my magic bag that held the highest grade of honey from the Hacchi race and opened the lid.

“What should I do for the magical power?”

《You can just stretch out your hand and accumulate the magical power in your hand. Ah, that’s my share so don’t eat it~!》

“Is it alright like this?”

The voices I heard previously disappeared but the honey within the large bottle was gone in the blink of an eye. I experimented and took out another large bottle and this time, even the large bottle disappeared.

Seems like they are gluttons.

As I had that thought, my arm felt ticklish at random places and my magical power was being drawn all at once.

《The honey was the best. The magical power is so-so.》

《Come on put in more effort. The honey was great.》

《They're both taste. But, it's tastier if there're more attributes.》

《So you do have some fairly good stuff.》

《Honey is the best! This won't lose to the dragon blessing.》

《Yup. It isn't muddy also, everyone's agreeable right?》

『《Yeah~!》』

The instant about half of my magical power was sucked out, the mechanical announcement sound rang out in my head.

《Blessing of the Earth Spirit acquired》

While thinking that I couldn't help it, this time, I once again wanted to ask for the way back but at that moment, I noticed light-emitting spheres floating about, with brown on the outside that gradually became white in the center.

《That reaction means that he most likely can see us now.》

《There's 2 methods to escape from here.》

《Either you destroy the ant's nest and leave through the large door or you dispel the seal on the Earth Dragon and return using the magic circle.》

《He's annoying but the earth is weak due to his rampage.》

《If the dragon continues being bound, the miasma would become stronger so I'd prefer if you dispel it.》

《The monsters will become stronger if the miasma becomes stronger so if possible, I want you to protect the town Rain created.》

I don't mind if it's just to release it but it feels like it would become a chain of consecutive battles so I don't want to ...

“Why aren’t the dwarves fighting the underground monsters?”

《They are already fighting them.》

《The dwarves are stubborn so they don’t ask for help.》

《They’re doing their best to protect their own country.》

《Their recovery means is also just alcohol.》

《They’re being pushed back by plenty of monsters.》

《I believe if it worsens any more, it will be bad even for the sturdy dwarves.》

” ... I’ll have to recover my magical power, if not, I won’t be able to open the door nor will I be able to release it, so we can discuss after that.”

I sat in front of the door leading to the Earth Dragon as told by the spirits and mediated.

When I did so, the spirit who always spoke the last, said a few words and the spirits disappeared.

” ... We’ll meet again soon huh.”

A slight gloomy feeling remained in my heart but I began meditating.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 109: Dragons And Spirits' Beliefs

As usual, there was a large door before my eyes and the moment I touched it, it began to absorb my magical power.

This time, the door shined a golden-yellow light as a crest gradually appeared and sparkled.

“A sealed door ... is it alright to unseal it? How did the Evil God enter?”

Such thoughts went through my head.

“It's open. To be safe ... 「Area Barrier」 ... alright, guess I'll proceed.”

At that point in time, I regretted not having read deeper into why my luck was fluctuating so erratically.

“Looks like it doesn't lead to stairs.”

Peeking through the opened door, I saw a winding path that continued forward.

I returned the illusionary sword back into the illusionary cane and advanced until the Earth Dragon was captured within my field of vision.

The scales themselves on the Earth Dragon in my sight looked like rocks, giving me an impression of a craggy hill. Black miasma mingled within the Earth Dragon, darker compared to the miasma that was present in the Holy Dragon and Flame Dragon, places where the miasma was the most severe had begun undeadification.

I was beginning to feel slightly relieved after seeing the Earth Dragon remain calm like the Holy Dragon and Flame Dragon but calamity suddenly struck me.

The Earth Dragon's body started to creak and it began to cry out.

“Guraaagooooo~”

That cry filled my body with dread ... I believe that can't be helped ... but things beyond my expectations continued to happen.

The creaking of the Earth Dragon's body intensified and caused an earthquake along with it.

“Guh, a rampaging dragon ... not funny.”

I lowered my posture and weaved a chant as I clenched my illusionary cane but at that instant, the Earth Dragon's eyes caught sight of me.

The intimidation I felt from those eyes was different from that of the Holy Dragon and the Flame Dragon, hatred was included within it and the mere sight of it caused my body to go rigid and

my knees to tremble.

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, by my wish use my magical power as sustenance, like wings of light, using a shield of purification, create a sanctuary that sears everything wicked and impure. Sanctuary Circle.】

Nevertheless, I completed the magic circle and invoked 「Sanctuary Circle」.

However, as if indicating that it's not affected at all, the Earth Dragon inhaled and released a breath attack directed toward me before it was wrapped by the light of the 「Sanctuary Circle」.

Naturally, when the breath was heading my way, I immediately took out a large shield and cleared my mind, channelling magical power in order to invoke a wind barrier, but I did not make it in time.

I was engulfed by the Earth Dragon's breath.

Pain, hot, cold, numbness ... I invoked 「Dispel」, 「Recover」 and 「Extra Heal」 with 「No Chant」 and fell into magical power depletion.

“Ha, ha, ha.” (TL: He's panting/gasping)

It was tremendously strange as to why I was still alive.

The large shield was petrified and crumbled into pieces.

And, without realising, I had fallen on my back.

Looking at the roof of the cave, I judged that my thoughts weren't circulating due to my magical power depletion so I took out MP potions to fuel my recovery. But, because it's been a long time since I experienced magical power depletion and the feeling was extremely unpleasant, I once again reaffirmed with myself that I never want to deplete my magical power ever again.

" ... It feels disgusting."

At that time, a voice resounded in my brain.

《Liberator who unleashes the seal of the Evil God, I praise you for dispelling the curse on me after doing so for the Holy Dragon and the Flame Dragon.》

To me, the voice within my head when I was feeling unpleasant was as discomforting as the daily household noises you hear during a hangover.

" ... Has your consciousness returned properly?"

《Yes. As expected, even I didn't wish to fall to undeadification. I struggled and everything felt annoying. Now, I'm feeling better.》

Thanks to you, I'm the one feeling the worst now!!

” ... It was still alright with the Holy Dragon but I feel like I had to struggle a fair amount for the Flame Dragon and you, the Earth Dragon?”

《 ... I can't sleep well when spirits come near me.》

It pushed the blame onto the spirits but the grievance it feels does not seem to be normal.

Eyes that harbour such intense hatred is abnormal after all.

I felt miserable due to magical power depletion but I mustered my strength to ask the Earth Dragon.

“Does the spirits and the dragon race not get along well?”

《We worship the Dragon God-sama while they worship the Spirit King.》

Their races are different so it should be inevitable that the subject of their worship is different.

“Just because of that?”

《Even though dragons is the supreme race, the spirits wish to appear as the underlying principle of the world.》

” ... To be honest, it doesn’t matter to me either way.”

《It ought to be a topic that matters to you.》

” ... Why?”

《Because of the destiny of mutual attraction between the holder of blessings from the Gods, dragons, and spirits and the priestess/shrine maiden.》

In other words, my partner?

Mutual attraction, meaning love at first sight?

Or does it refer to being drawn toward the other party?

... But I don’t have the confidence of getting back onto my own feet just because it’s said to have been decided by the Dragon God and Spirit King ... in the first place, why does it have to be me?

” ... The spirits said the same thing as well but ... why me? There are plenty of local heroes or, even better, heroes that exist as vessels right?”

《Eventually, when the gears of your wheel of fates meet, you will naturally understand and you will become the Philosopher.》

I'm totally lost.

Aren't there other reincarnated individuals other than myself?

” ... But I don't want to be embroiled in something as troublesome as being the Philosopher? My goal is to find somewhere to live peacefully.”

《As reward for withstanding my attack and defeating me in a single hit, I gift you with my blessing as well as the fortune scattered about here.》

Ignored once again huh ... I guess I'll have to grasp this chance to ask my questions.

” ... I'll gratefully accept the treasures. Please tell me this one thing, can't the Chief God Kuraiya suppress the Evil God?”

《The Evil God does not directly show his movements because he is capable of manipulating the demon race, so the Chief God probably won't be able to take notice.》

“I don't have such capabilities.”

《I just hope that you will save my suffering brethren, just like

how you saved the Holy Dragon, the Flame Dragon and myself.》

” ... If the opportunity presents itself.”

《The gears of fate have already begun to spin.》

“Please stop it if you can.”

《The path that lies ahead for you with the Blessing of the Earth Spirits is merely deplorable earth magic but show me that you can weather through the difficulties.》

“What do you mean? I’ll be able to use earth magic?”

“Kukuku. You, what’s your name?”

The Earth Dragon ignored my words and stopped communicating with its mind.

It seemed like it was already facing difficulty maintaining its body.

I didn’t really reap much from this encounter but it was useless to ask about anything else and I could not formulate any thoughts due to the unpleasant feeling I’ve been experiencing.

” ... Luciel.”

“Luciel, hold up that cane made from the Holy Dragon’s fang in front of me.”

“Like this?”

Just like how it was with the Flame Dragon, without giving me a reply, golden-yellow light was sucked into the illusionary cane.

“Luciel, I pray that you will grow into a splendid Philosopher. I’ve also fulfilled my promise ... Rafi ... ru ... na...”

With those words, the Earth Dragon’s body undulated before it became petrified and crumbled.

I imagined that fangs and scales would remain where the Earth Dragon once stood similar to what happened with the Holy Dragon, but instead, various lumps of ores appeared and among the ores were multiple previous gems that I had never seen before.

Apart from that, as usual, there was a large magic stone and treasure chest with a small jewel housed within it.

The next instant, once again, the necklace glowed and flew out from within the magic bag, the jewel snapped onto the necklace and the glow subsided.

” ... There are 6 remaining jewels. Nevertheless, I still don’t feel

like going to collect them.”

I’ve still yet to understand why I survived that breath attack.

I was prepared for death when I was swallowed by the breath.

“I wonder why do dragons always possess treasures.”

Except for the large magic stone, I purified the various magic tool-like items, coins, weapons and armours scattered about the room and picked them up before I leaped into the magic circle and my view was dyed with the dazzling light.

『Ping』【Title: Blessing of the Earth Dragon acquired】

『Ping』【Title: Dragon Destroyer acquired】

Sounds resounded inside my brain and when the light subsided, I had returned to the entrance to Rockford.

” ... I unexpectedly released the dragon and obtained the spirits’ blessing but I totally can’t decide if my luck is good or bad.”

Since everyone is most likely worried about me, I decided to return to the place I fell into the hole.

Just like how Paula did it when we first visited the town, I

touched the wall and the verification was successful. The ordinary appearance of the town of Rockford appeared before me but it was wrapped in hustle and bustle unlike when we first arrived.

“Is it because of the ant monsters? I guess so ... if the hole at the town square is not sealed, monsters would come pouring out.”

I whipped my body that had just recovered from magical power depletion into motion and headed directly for the central square.

I felt like I saw Paula's golem at the central square for a split second so everyone is definitely gathered there.

Believing it was so, I began running.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 110: Fleeting Rest

As I kicked the ground hard while I ran, I began to formulate various hypotheses.

I must have defeated enough ant monsters for even Mario to get 1UP when I fell into that hole.

If that's the case, then it will be alright once we defeat the monsters that rose up from that hole.

However, assuming that it's not only a single location where holes appeared, won't the monsters have multiple entrances and exits like an ants nest?

I thought so and tried looking around as I ran but there weren't any holes that had opened up.

When I reached the central square, I saw countless holes as well as inhabitants striking down the monsters that climbed up as if a game of whack-a-mole.

“Is everyone safe?”

Everyone was startled when I called out but then Grand-san raised his voice.

“Luciel-dono is back. Crush the holes.”

『Oooo』

All the people present cried out in a uniform voice, making one doubt if they were in fact dwarves, as the inhabitants of Rockford threw in chemicals or dropped rocks using magic tools down the holes before finally, Grand-san and Dolan blocked the holes.

However, they left the hole that I fell into as it was.

“Sorry for worrying you all. Nevertheless, why isn’t this hole buried?”

“That’s because if we leave this single location open, magic stones will spring out from here.” (TL: I guess they’re funnelling the ant monsters out a single hole and killing them to get the magic stones.)

I’m relieved that it’s not because someone went in to chase after me.

While feeling relieved, I briefly told them of my experience after I fell underground.

“I see. So, this time, it’s an Earth Dragon huh ...”

Lionel’s fighting spirit swelled but I sliced it in two.

“This time, I would have died twice if I had acted wrongly. The first was when I fell into the hole, the second was when I received the breath of the Earth Dragon. Especially the Earth Dragon’s breath ... until now, it’s still a mystery why I survived it.”

Nevertheless, Lionel’s clothes have been dirtied here and there so he definitely flew into the hole once but was most likely stopped by Paula’s golem.

Because I can see cracks on the golem’s arm operated by Paula.

“And so? What’s happening underground? Paula and Rician came to my workshop and I tried to jump into the hole to give chase but an earthquake occurred and holes opened up here and there, it was shocking when monsters came pouring out you know?” (Dolan)

Dolan’s complexion was pale due to the earthquake but it seemed like he participated in the battle.

As I cast 「Recover」, I recalled the story the spirits told me so I reiterated it to them.

“I fell quite deep into the depths and was able to see that there was an insane amount of ants thanks to the torchlight. ... Now that I think about it, the Earth Spirit mentioned that the Dwarf Kingdom was already in battle with the monsters but do you all know about it?” (Luciel)

“What!?” (Grand/Dolan?)

“The dwarves reside underground but they originally lived in caverns and gradually delved underground to expand their dwellings.” (Dolan/Grand?) (TL: He meant that it’s inevitable they would encounter monsters underground since they are expanding downwards)

Truly the construction of an underground kingdom.

Well, it can be done as long as they have the capacity to do so.

” ... Wouldn’t it be better to not do it here?” (Luciel)

“The location where the Earth Dragon and spirits gather is where they consider as the center of the earth.”

“The large number of monsters is a problem but the dwarf race is both stalwart and sturdy. They won’t fall behind to the likes of ant monsters.”

The 2 of them are dwarves as well which might be why they feel that way ...

“Since the Earth Dragon is gone, in normal cases with labyrinths, the labyrinth monsters would weaken ... but, what would happen if monsters apart from the ants appeared? Especially monsters from the 40th-floor stratum?” (Luciel)

” ... Bad.”

“No, the king and his entourage are still around so it should be alright.”

It depends on the number of these ant monsters but there are likely to be dwarves that can't fight as well.

Taking that into consideration ... eh? I'm surprised at myself for wanting to go help without realising.

It must definitely be because I've been through a lot.

“Before that, do you mind if I get some rest?”

I had them give me some time to rest and refresh my brain.

From Sir Rainstar to fairies and dragon, to the battle between dwarves and monsters, the thoughts in my brain felt like they were being engulfed in a vortex.

It can't be helped that my emotions were unstable due to my flustered state.

Since I am definitely not some protagonist of a story.

Dolan and Grand-san exchanged looks and nodded.

“As expected, it’s not like the kingdom would fall immediately.”

“There’s no point in getting flustered without confirming the state they are currently in. This time, I believe Luciel-dono has been through a lot so it would be better to have some rest.”

The 2 of them gave their understanding and the others didn’t disapprove so we decided to return to Dolan’s residence for now.

Since it would be a little late for lunch by the time we reach Dolan’s workshop, I retrieved some food I prepared beforehand from my magic bag for us to eat.

“The measurements for the equipment for the 3 of them are not done yet right?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. It will take at least 3 days. It would have finished earlier if Toretto was around though.” (Grand)

“Oh yeah, when I released the Earth Dragon, it dropped ores instead of fangs and scales so Dolan, could you take a look at them after your meal? There’s quite a variety of ores and magic tool-like items so I believe there should be some useable ones.” (Luciel)

“Ooo, I’m looking forward to that.” (Dolan)

“The output from the mines have been slow lately so your luck is quite good.” (Grand)

“It depends on the individual if it is a worthy gain in exchange for battling a dragon, but for me, I would rather not.” (Luciel)

“Oh right, Luciel-dono. It’s alright if you talk to me as you usually do. After all, we’re comrades who have shared drinks together.” (Grand)

” ... I’m grateful for your words. I’m finding it a little hard to change the habit I acquired in Ienith.”

“Gahaha. Nevertheless, I’m looking forward to seeing what ores you obtained.”

Just as Dolan and Grand-san were beginning to get hyped, I unexpectedly felt something strike my side.

“Ouch!? Don’t poke my side. What’s wrong Paula? Rician also?”

“If you found magic tools underground, I’d like to borrow them.” (Paula)

“Under present circumstances, we don’t even have magic stones so there isn’t much we can do.” (Rician)

“Alright. But don’t disassemble them.” (Luciel)

“I promise.” (Paula)

“I won’t disassemble them to the point that they can’t be restored.” (Rician)

..... Is it really alright to hand them over?

I pondered, but since there were items that I could not understand what function they served as magic tools, I decided to entrust it to them in the end.

Maybe they were being considerate of my feelings, but nothing was said about the dwarf kingdom nor about the dwarf race.

After we finished our meal, we first headed for Dolan’s workshop.

Then, I began to retrieve the ores from my magic bag, placing them in order as the expressions of the 2 of them hardened.

“Firstly, these most likely fall into the category of jewels.”

Upon aligning the ores neatly, it felt curiously like an ore display corner in a museum.

I felt faint traces of magical power from some of them so I was hoping that they were good items.

Then, for the items that can't be placed on the table, I arranged them on the cleared floor space but Dolan and Grand-san were already at a loss for words.

They've been holding their breath since I began arranging the ores so it had become slightly amusing.

"These are the souvenirs left behind by the Earth Dragon."
(Luciel)

"... Luciel-dono, you really don't recognize them?" (Dolan)

"Yeah. I'm an amateur after all." (Luciel)

"... After completing the equipment for Lionel-dono and the others, I can already see the completion of that. It would need a lot of magic stones later but it should reach an operational level."
(Dolan) (TL: Is he really making a Gundam?)

"Really?" (Luciel)

"Yes, really." (Dolan)

"My tension is seriously rising up from hearing that." (Luciel)

"... What are you guys making? Let me help too." (Grand)

“I’ll leave it to Dolan to decide on the subcontracting fee. It looks like you’ll enjoy it so please make it cheaper if possible.” (Luciel)

I said that before leaving the workshop.

“Kefin, you’re on the first watch?”

“Yeah. I’ve fought the ant monsters when we were on the way here as well but I’ll defeat them without letting my guard down.”

“Wear this.”

I passed him a robe.

“This robe shouldn’t disintegrate even against the strongest dissolving liquid.”

“Thank you. Well then, I’ll begin my watch.”

Kefin disappeared like a fog.

“Looks like he is keeping to my words to constantly use ninjutsu.”

Kefin, after he decided to tag along with me ... I trained him until he would not die even during tough fights.

I could not peek at other people's proficiency but while making various guesses, I judged that he could be taught.

I believe that he would be able to become an existence that can protect me.

After seeing Kefin off, I headed toward Paula's booth when I noticed that at some point in time, a door that allowed passage between Paula and Rician's rooms had been installed.

"When was this built?"

"I can make something like this in an instant."

"Leaving this aside, the magic tools."

Their eyes gave the feeling of children wanting their toys so I calmly took out the magic tools and equipment.

When I finished taking out everything, immediately, the 2 of them peacefully (?) began to analyse the items.

As if I totally did not exist ...

As expected, it felt slightly hurtful so I quietly mumbled.

“I’ll hold on to the magic tools and such in the future seeing as these kids can’t even say a word of appreciation.”

“Sorry. Once I finish analysis, I’ll work hard again.” (Paula)

“I apologize. I will do my best for Luciel-sama.” (Rician)

It looks like the 2 of them heard my quiet mumblings.

“It’s good to compete but do properly greet and reply others.”

“Understood.”

“I understand.”

Saying anything else would only serve as self-satisfaction so I returned to the room I stayed in yesterday and took out my Angel’s Pillow to take a nap.

Without knowing that my heart would pound the next time I opened my eyes, I fell into slumber.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 111: Line Of Compromise

I was able to get some good rest but it did not resolve my worries.

That is to be expected though ...

As soon as I opened my eyes while thinking about that, I met gazes with something.

“Dowaaaaa”

I pushed the face of the being in front of my eyes away with all my might.

A lukewarm wind grazed my palm the moment I touched the face.

“That hurts. I wonder if this is the whip of love ... if it is then my tension is building up fo~”

“This spine-chilling sensation and that ‘fo~’ expression ... Toretto-san?”

The face was way too up close until I couldn’t even notice that it was a middle-aged man’s face with makeup on.

Moreover, there wasn’t even 10cm distance in between us ... he didn’t do anything right?

“That’s right. It’s alright if you go back to sleep. This time around, I’ll get what I want. I was so close just now ...”

Looks like I haven’t been violated.

Even now my heart was still thumping violently as if on a rampage.

After taking in a deep breath, I decided to ask Toretto-san.

“I’d like to politely decline. Nevertheless, why did Toretto-san come here?”

“Cause I sensed an interesting odor ... just kidding. I heard from the church headquarters that Luciel-kun was bringing his companions toward Rockford so I came.”

“Really? I’m thankful for that. To be honest, I’ve suffered a breath from the Earth Dragon and was on the brink of death so I’m worried about the maintenance for my armor and robe.”

“Okay~, they have the automatic repair function so I believe it should be fine but I’ll take a look later.”

“Thank you.”

“Then change out of your clothes and pass me your armor.”

“Okay.”

After changing using the transformation mirror Dresser, I handed 1 full set of armor from Dresser to Toretto-san.

“I’ll be doing the maintenance at Paula-chan’s workshop so stop by later. My heart’s dancing from touching good armor after such a long time fo~”

I was planning to walk to the underground workshop together but Toretto-san briskly walked out of the room.

“Just like a hurricane ... If Toretto-san becomes Paula’s magical tool manufacturing mentor, even with Paula’s taciturn nature, I feel like she’ll be able to understand his knowledge regarding magical tools.”

I laughed, and once again sat down on the bed to organize my thoughts on the current situation.

Having the knowledge that the dragons are suffering, I do wish to release them all but that is not realistic.

Since they are all located at the very end of labyrinths after all.

Nevertheless, thinking of the Earth Dragon that is able to shake a location 2 days travel away, I can feel the threat of the Earth

Dragon with that alone.

Of course, the breath is dangerous as well but if the earthquakes continued indefinitely, it would invigorate the ant monster like what happened this time and cause an extraordinary amount of damage.

... Giving that a thought, this time, I happened to release the dragon first, if I assume that this is a labyrinth, the monsters in the various boss rooms should still be alive.

“If it’s an existence like a queen ant-like monster that produces the ant monsters ... this place is no longer safe ...”

Regardless of this place being the location they were converted into slaves, knowing the effort put in for me by Dolan and the others, even if I can be thick-skinned and act as if nothing is wrong, it won’t be able to sit well within me if I ignore the situation. I was sick of being indecisive.

Due to the blessing I received this time around, I’ve acquired Earth-type attribute but as expected, since I don’t have spellbooks, it looks like it will be some time before I can experience this blessing.

Magician’s Guild ... as well as the city in the air, I can imagine a bright future where I hope to go there but, in the end, I came to the conclusion that I will not be able to proceed without strengthening my foothold.

“I’ll only be going around in circles if I attempt to think deeper into it. If that’s the case, it’ll be alright if I just let everyone do the fighting and provide healing assistance from within a safe zone.”

After praying for the arrival of peaceful days, I descended down to the workshops.

When I arrived underground, Kefin was there but I did not see Cathy around.

“Kefin, how is the outside situation?”

“Luciel-sama, are you already alright?”

“Yeah.”

“That’s relieving. Currently, the ant monsters are coming out of the remaining hole but it’s only from a single location and the number of holes has not increased after that. Because of that, although the number of ant monsters that have appeared is high, they did not come out at the same time so it’s not to a troubling level.”

” ... For example, if a thousand ant monsters surround Lionel and the others, do you have confidence that they’ll win?”

” ... Assuming that there’s sufficient space, that they can receive healing even if the opponents all attack at the same time and that their equipment doesn’t break, I believe that they would somehow

make it.”

Kefin replied while choosing his words.

Well, it was as I had guessed.

Either they desire to especially travel to the jaws of death or seek death within the battlefield, those are just about the 2 choices of battle maniacs.

“It’ll depend on the situation. Furthermore, the dwarven race appears stalwart and robust but I’ve heard that many of them have stubborn personalities.

As long as there are no requests, as soon as the measurements are done, I plan to go to the city of Meratoni with everyone.”

“I’ll follow you no matter where you go.”

I was slightly pleased by the resolve reflected in Kefin’s eyes as he said that.

“I’ll have this talk with Dolan and the others. To gather information ... I might have you visit the Dwarf Kingdom.”

“I’m the right man for the job. It’s alright. I won’t make a blunder.”

Kefin laughed as he opened the door to Dolan's workshop.

"Mind if I interrupt for a moment?"

When I entered the workshop, the 3 of them stopped what they were doing and looked over.

"Ooo, are you already alright?" (Grand/Lionel)

"Yeah. When I woke up, Toretto-san's face was approaching mine closely so I received various mental damages but the ill feeling from magical power depletion is gone." (Luciel)

" ... I see. Luciel-sama, you knew Toretto?" (Dolan)

"Yeah. The robe I've always worn was made by Toretto-san." (Luciel)

" ... In the past, he was a regular fox beastman but ... Paula got emotionally attached to him so it was alright but ..." (Dolan)

Dolan cast's his eyes down with a dark expression.

" ... Luciel-sama, um, I've given that man responsibility for the armors but is it alright?" (Lionel)

"There's no problem with respect to his skill. Compensation-

wise, I'll pay if it's money but if it's to do with the body, you'll have to deal with it yourself." (Luciel)

I told him with a grin.

Lionel had a speechless expression but I ignored it and conveyed the talk I had with Kefin just now to them.

" ... And so, please keep in mind that we will be leaving here as soon as the measurements are complete."

" ... Thank you Luciel-dono. Dolan, we should write a letter to the king."

"Yes, elder brother Grand. As expected of Luciel-sama. From now on, I'll do my best with all sincerity as well."

Dolan said as he bowed before he began to write a letter with Grand-san.

"Luciel-sama, the interior of the hole was not that wide right?" (Lionel)

"The height was about 2 meters. You might not be able to swing a greatsword there." (Luciel)

Lionel was brimming with the urge to go to battle and seemed to be simulating combat in his mind.

After the 2 people writing the letter finished, they lectured Kefin about the method to enter the Dwarven Kingdom.

“Kefin, don’t overdo it. Your task is to return alive so think of delivering the letter as secondary. Also, magical power authentication ... and it would be good if you listen to a couple of the answers to those golems.” (Luciel)

“I’ve already done the magical power authentication but ... that’s right, it would be difficult to enter and exit if I can’t answer a couple of the questions.” (Kefin)

“Well then, Kefin, I’ll entrust this to you.”

“Yes!”

I moved from Dolan’s workshop to Paula and Rician’s workshop.

“Paula, Rician. I’d like to ask you 2 to develop magical tools that can illuminate darkness similar to the torchlight.” (Luciel)

“No magic stones.” (Paula)

“Furthermore, aren’t there already about 10 torchlights?” (Rician)

“... Sorry, I mixed up the order of the story.

We might possibly venture out to defeat the monsters coming out from the central square.

Also, I'll pull out magic stones from the ant monsters that I have not finished dismantling. I'll pass you 2 those so please make do with them somehow." (Luciel)

"Understood." (Paula)

"I understand." (Rician)

The 2 of them nodded.

"And so? What should I do?" (Toretto)

"There's a possibility that we'll be going into combat so thank you in advance for the equipment maintenance." (Luciel)

"Alright~ it's boring but I'll let it slide this time." (Toretto)

"There are various ores at that workshop there so please use those. I'll pay you the maintenance fees later." (Luciel)

"That's fine. Leave it to me then." (Toretto)

"Thank you." (Luciel)

Thus, I've given instructions to everyone and I suddenly had free time so, since there's a chance we'll need a large amount of food if we go into battle, I began cooking.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 112: Messenger From The Dwarf Kingdom

When I was in the midst of cooking, Cathy returned but she was slightly flustered.

“What’s wrong?”

“The hole is gradually beginning to widen nya. If we don’t get Dolan-san or Grand-san’s help to reinforce it, it might be bad nya.”

“Were there any injuries?”

“None, for now, nya.”

In this town, even at night, it was still modestly bright due to the pseudo-moon and pseudo-stars.

It looked like the time was around dusk, there’s a possibility that the monsters might overflow instantly if the hole continues to widen into the night so just to be safe ...

“Then, to secure magic stones, I guess I’ll go over too.”

“I’d prefer if you don’t fall down a hole this time nya.”

” ... I’ll position myself carefully.”

After that, I spoke to Cathy and it was decided that Dolan would come along and we ultimately arrived at the central square.

“It has certainly widened. Dolan, is the Dwarf Kingdom close by?”

“About an hour from here.”

“Do you think that this hole might be connected to the Dwarf Kingdom?”

“Why?”

” ... In that case, if we reconstruct this to a flight of stairs, this position will become assailable as well right? When that happens, we’ll be able to disperse the monsters that are headed for the Dwarf Kingdom to head here as well.”

“I see. However, as might be expected, I don’t have a firm grasp of the underground structure.”

Well, that’s normal.

While apologizing for blurting out what came to mind, I told them that I planned to use the torchlight to shine into the hole to take a look.

“Cathy, I’ll leave the monsters to you. When I shine the torchlight while making sure not to fall in, if the monster numbers are large, Dolan, please bury the hole for the time being.”

“Understood nya.”

“I will not allow Rockford to fall to monsters!”

I held the torchlight and Holy Dragon Spear as I approached the hole and shined the light.

The monsters that appeared within the hole rapidly stirred and a literal horde rushed forward. I pierced with my spear while Cathy leaped as she began attacking to prevent the ants from coming out of the hole.

“Dolan!”

Dolan touched the ground and the ant hole narrowed but it stopped just as it was on the verge of closing completely.

“Dolan, it’s better if you don’t completely seal it. It’s better than not knowing where they might appear and cause confusion.”

If we don’t figure out why the ant monsters are stirring, I have a feeling we might not be able to stop the monsters.

I have not heard of any previous cases where monsters invaded

this town since the time Sir Rainstar constructed it.

The earthquakes alone do not fully explain it.

I had a nagging feeling that it was so.

“If this was going to be the case, it would have been better if we brought Paula along and asked her to solidify the surface of the ground.” (Dolan)

“I can call her over nya?” (Cathy)

“Cathy and I are needed to exterminate the ants. For the sake of unforeseen circumstances, Dolan, you have to remain here as well.” (Luciel)

“Hmm, then shall we ask somebody to run an errand?” (Dolan)

” ... We'll stay like this until Kefin returns. It's not like the researchers in this town would suck their thumbs and merely watch right?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. But, there isn't someone to lead as a commander.” (Dolan)

“Dolan, your complexion is pale? Don't tell me, there's a difference in burying the earth and completely sealing the hole?” (Luciel)

” ... If I could not stop just now, I would have fallen into magical power depletion.” (Dolan)

“I’d prefer if you told me that in advance.” (Luciel)

“Cathy, what about Lionel?” (Luciel)

” ... I believe he’s capable of doing so, but he won’t do it nya.” (Cathy)

“Ha~. Then, when I’m leading, would he give me advice?” (Luciel)

“Of course nya.” (Cathy)

“Only if it becomes a defensive battle though. Leaving that aside, do the monsters feed on the dead monster’s corpses?” (Luciel)

“I don’t know nya. But there is such a possibility nya.” (Cathy)

“I’ve heard that monsters also go into territorial disputes.” (Dolan)

“So we’ll have to defeat them in a way that they don’t fall back down huh. It won’t be funny if the others consume them and level up.” (Luciel)

If I'm not mistaken, ants are omnivores and I imagine that they are capable of eating anything so it will be bad if that happens.

Until Kefin returned, we concentrated on defeating the monsters.

Because at most only 3 monsters can appear from the hole at the same time, it wasn't that hard of a fight as long as we defeated them pre-emptively, but when I shined the torchlight, the ants clustered together in the hole.

I tried using purification magic but it had no effect so we have no choice but to continue cutting them down like this? Or was it better if we had buried them? I wondered about that.

While I was wondering, a visitor appeared.

“Luciel-sama, sorry to keep you waiting.”

Kefin returned with 2 dwarves.

“You're back, they are?”

“Yes. They are the Dwarf King's aides, Guraios-dono and Aresurei-dono. I was told to bring them along no matter what so I could not refuse ... the 2 of them will convey the additional information.”

“I see. Kefin, swap places with me. Cathy, please hold out for slightly longer. Dolan, please participate in the talks with me.”

『Yes!』

At that instant, the complexion of the 2 dwarves changed.

I don't know whether it was because I directed him, I called him without any honorifics or that Dolan obediently followed.

Well, I'm currently not bothered by their reactions.

“I am Luciel, S-rank healer of Saint Schull's Church. Well then, please tell me the response from the king of the Dwarf Kingdom at once.” (Luciel)

” ... Here?” (Dwarf 1)

“With the criminal Do ...” (Dwarf 2)

“I dare you to say any more, I will not hesitate to abandon my obligation towards the Dwarf Kingdom.” (Luciel)

“Luciel-sama.” (Dolan)

“He is my retinue who has spared no efforts for my sake and is currently hired as the head of my research and development team.

I think it is better if you commit that into your skull before you speak?” (Luciel)

The 2 of them exchanged startled looks and whispers before they began speaking once again.

“We apologize for the disrespect. I am Guraios. We have suffered casualties so the Dwarf King hopes to request for aid but he has tasked us to determine if we dwarves are able to pay for the healer fees.” (TL: He used respectful speech xD)

” ... Kefin, what was your impression of the Dwarf Kingdom?”

“It was fatigued. It’s not as if all their residents have a good command of combat and their days should be numbered.”

“What did you say! Are you making fun of us dwarves!!”

” ... To be honest, it doesn’t matter what you think so don’t interrupt our conversation. He may be a slave but he is also my follower. He is an outstanding personnel who is capable of accurately conveying information. What I want to hear now are not emotion-backed arguments.”

I shot down the remark from the man called Araios. (TL: The author switched from Guraios to Araios for some reason, don’t know if typo or originally it was meant to be Araios)

“Did it look like they had a shortage of food?”

“It didn’t look like food was a problem but the rapid expenditure of equipment and the need for treatment of the wounded were clearly more pressing problems. We confronted many monsters on the way to the Dwarf Kingdom.”

“Ha~. Kefin, please call everyone over. Please ask Grand-san and Toretto-san to come as well.”

“Yes!”

The 2 dwarves were shocked when Kefin disappeared.

A person disappearing would look like they transferred so I probably would have been shocked too.

I looked at the 2 dwarves and asked.

“As you can see, due to the impact of the earthquake today, Rockford was also attacked by monsters. What I want now is information regarding the situation underground. For example, are other monsters present as well when the ant monsters attack or what exactly is the boss of the ants? Or is there more than one? Please tell me what you know. Incidentally, this is the fee table for a healer.”

After handing over the guidelines, I continued the ant extermination with Cathy.

“Does it look like we’ll be able to help them nya?”

“I don’t know. It depends on their choices. If there are many individuals similar to Araiios, I am no longer burdened like in Ienith so I won’t deliberately go to a dangerous place like the Dwarf Kingdom.”

“During that time in Ienith, it would have been better if the choices could be split so clearly nya.”

“I was burdened by way too much in Ienith. Even though it was already tough enough with just Kefin and you all.”

I smiled bitterly as I strike the ants.

“That’s cruel nya. Leaving aside Dolan and Paula, we were obedient ...”

“It’s more like I didn’t find out.” (Luciel)

“Well, you had opponents as well so it was inevitable on Lionel and your part.” (Luciel)

I did not direct my gaze toward the 2 Dwarven King’s aides as we both talked.

After giving them the pricing plan, I plan to ascertain what they think and I wonder how their attitudes will change when Grand-

san arrives.

I did not know what was the content of the letter written by Dolan and Grand.

However, I had already decided to trust them.

While we defeated the monsters, the dwarves did not approach us nor did they speak to us.

At that point, Grand-san arrived but he ignored the 2 of them and headed my way before bowing.

“I’m sorry. But, it is still my hometown after all. I hope that you will help.”

“Well, I’ve already prepared myself. I was just thinking about the course to take to the Dwarf Kingdom.

I’d like to ask Dolan, Paula, and Rician to defend here. Only defend, absolutely do not enter the hole.

Please cooperate with everyone to defend this town.

I don’t mind if you use all the magic stones from the monsters corpses lying there.”

『Yes!』

“I’m sorry that you came at an awkward timing but, Toretto-san, I’d like to ask you to support them.

You’re the only one capable of directing them.”

“Fo~!! My fighting spirit will overflow if you give me that scorching look. Just this one time, I’ll do my best for the sake of my 2 disciples.”

After brilliantly avoiding Toretto-san’s wink, I continued giving out instructions.

“Lionel, I’d have you defend with the large shield and fight with the short spear.

Cathy and Kefin will be the mobile unit, I’ll be responsible for healing and support.

Also, I’ll have Grand-san come along with us.

I’d like to ask Grand-san to conduct all the negotiations with the Dwarf King.”

” ... Are you alright with giving me that task?”

“Yes. Currently, there are only 3 dwarves I trust in this world, Dolan-san, Paula, and Grand-san.”

” ... Understood. Fu~ You’ve changed considerably after a couple of years.”

“The reason why you think that I’ve changed may be because I have reliable companions by my side now.”

As I replied to Grand-san’s bitter smile with my own smile, I made a single resolve.

In the worst case, even if the Dwarf Kingdom collapses, we will survive.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 113: The Strife-Laden Dwarf Kingdom

This time, taking into consideration that the monsters might appear from underground, we decided to not move via horses and walk on foot instead.

Together with the messengers from the Dwarf Kingdom, we formed a 7 men party and departed from Rockford.

“Luciel-sama, I believe that the situation wouldn’t change much even if we rush toward the Dwarf Kingdom now. It would be better if we have our meal first.”

“That’s certainly true.”

Lionel advised so we ended up having our dinner at that spot.

The 2 from the Dwarf Kingdom raised complaints.

But, Grand-san was in agreement with our decision so they could not speak out.

I did not bother to aid the 2 of them at all with the preparation of their meals.

“It sure is dark. It’s clearly different from Rockford.”

“Luciel-dono, there’s no helping it since monsters would be attracted if we illuminated the area with lights. Please use the torchlight.”

Grand-san and the others, as well as the messengers from the Dwarf Kingdom, possess the skill called Night Vision. Grand-san taught me that it was a skill that could ensure a certain degree of vision even among the darkness.

It looks to be a skill that can be nurtured and acquired in dark places and apparently the majority of the dwarves possess it.

“There’s no moonlight tonight but it won’t be a problem if we follow the route set by Kefin.” (Grand)

“That’s right. I believe I won’t get lost with the torchlight.” (Kefin)

“Kefin, I leave the directions to you.” (Luciel)

“Yes.”

As though advancing with only 5 men, we left the fake town.

Because the earthquakes had stopped after the Earth Dragon was released, there weren’t any holes that suddenly opened up on the ground.

Due to the combination of Cathy and Kefin detecting monsters, we quickly defeated them.

I held a sense of distrust toward the 2 messengers from the Dwarf Kingdom.

They did not take the lead to guide the way nor did they participate in the battles.

Moreover, due to them acting like it is natural, I could only feel irritated by them.

After walking for a while after that, Kefin called out.

“We’ve arrived. Looks like we are able to enter from here.”
(Kefin)

“We’ll lead the way from here.” (Guraios)

“Come along.” (Aresurei)

The 2 dwarves called Guraios and Aresurei took the initiative and walked ahead.

I stood still there and looked at Grand-san.

” ... I know what you want to say. I’m terribly sorry but please forgive what has just happened.”

Since Grand-san appealed to me with a quiet voice, I had no choice but to take a deep breath and gratify the 2 of them by following behind them.

The height of the cave leading to the Dwarf Kingdom was about 2 meters tall, similar to the path I took before I met the spirits.

“It does seem like it would be difficult to swing my greatsword here with this ceiling height.” (Lionel)

“You can swing your greatsword to your heart’s content if there’s combat when we reach the defensive line of the Dwarf Kingdom. You have no choice but to use a short sword for anything else though ...” (Luciel)

” ... It looks like I won’t have a turn this time so I’ll leave it to Cathy and Kefin while I defend Luciel-sama...” (Lionel)

“I’d prefer if you are slightly more enthusiastic about that task.” (Luciel)

The overtly disappointed Lionel only gave me a wry smile.

Even though he would definitely guard me when the need arises, maybe I should try to emulate that unshakable thirst for battle of a battle maniac like him.

As we walked along the winding path, the path split into 2. We could proceed without getting lost but monsters appeared at that point so we stopped.

I looked at Grand-san and kneaded my brow.

“I’ll leave it to you, Cathy. Kefin, you’ll lead the way.” (Luciel)

“Please wait. We will serve as the guides.” (Dwarves)

“Then quickly go ahead and defeat the monsters. For what reason exactly did you 2 travel out for?” (Luciel)

“” “” (Dwarves)

“Grand-san ... it’s alright, right?” (Luciel)

“Yeah.” (Grand)

“Let’s go nya.” (Cathy.)

Cathy kicked the ground, kicked the wall and slaughtered the ant monsters.

Kefin passed that by and began leading the way.

“I guess I might as well gather them.”

I followed while collecting the magic stones.

After that, we encountered combat multiple times but they still completely remained as ornaments who only watched from afar.

“It will be the Dwarf Kingdom after we turn this corner.”

The instant Kefin announced that, Aresurei ran ahead alone.

Everyone was at a loss for words. But, I was able to make a conjecture by looking at Grand-san.

” ... Don’t tell me, you all are ...” (TL: It’ll be explained in the next chapter. Feel free to take a guess though :D)

Just as I said that, a scream echoed out from within the cave.

Cathy and Kefin shoot out like bullets toward the bent path Aresurei went down.

Seeing that, we followed as well and saw the figure of Aresurei getting bitten on the shoulder by an ant.

The ant monster immediately turned into a lump of meat under Cathy’s attack.

“How is he?” (Luciel)

“He’s injured but it’s not life threatening.” (Kefin)

“Ha~. 「Recover」, 「Heal」.” (Luciel)

I cast with 「Chant Termination」 and ordered Kefin to shoulder carry Aresurei.

After that, we arrived at the Dwarf Kingdom almost immediately.

“Now then, it looks like it has become a battle, Lionel, please proceed to the defensive line.”

“Yes.”

Lionel’s face showed a momentary grin when I passed him his flame greatsword and a headlight.

“Cathy, cover my surroundings, I’ll first rescue and recover the wounded.”

“Nya.”

Cathy was full of smiles as well knowing that she would be following me to a combat area.

“Kefin, escort the 2 messengers back to the king and Grand-dono, please explain to the king that Kefin is my follower.”

“Yes.” (Kefin)

” ... Understood.” (Grand)

Kefin nodded while Grand-san lowered his head.

While thinking that Grand-san will have to play a disadvantageous role, we started to move out.

As the dwarves were fighting with the monsters, Lionel introduced himself and joined in the battle.

“I am Lionel, the retainer of Saint Schull’s Church S-rank healer Luciel-sama. I come to assist the dwarves.”

With a swing of his greatsword, a few ant monsters were sent flying as they burned.

“Lionel looks like he’s having fun.” (Luciel)

“He told me that he’s been wanting to fight since we were in Ienith nya.” (Cathy)

“Anyway, let’s look for any injured people.”

” ... There nya. Wounded soldiers are being carried there nya.”

“I’m surprised you can see that despite how dim it is in here.”

“There are many among the cat beastmen who possess the Night Vision skill as well nya.”

I chased after Cathy directly toward the building she mentioned where the dwarf soldiers were being carried to.

The interior of the building was bright so I could see a lot of wounded people inside.

Nobody looked toward us nor did they seem to be interested but I felt that it was convenient for us too.

“I am Luciel, the owner of Dolan-dono and S-rank healer of Saint Schull’s Church. I was begged by all means by Dolan-dono so I’ve come to heal you all. Where are the ones that are the most wounded?”

Once I said that, the dwarves all faced here simultaneously.

Some of them showed glimpses of anger but they most likely determined that treatment came first and called out to me.

“This guy here is the most injured.”

When I rushed over, I saw a dwarf on death’s bed, bleeding from his shoulder, flank and leg.

“As expected of a dwarf, praised for their sturdiness. 「High Heal」.”

Under my 「Chant Termination」 「High Heal」, his gouged out shoulder rose up and began to heal perfectly.

“Since he’s lost quite a lot of blood, he should be able to move about soon after he gets a proper meal.”

I heard the gasps from the round-eyed dwarves who witnessed that spectacle.

I immediately announced before they got out of control.

“Please move all the heavily injured people within a 3-meter radius around me. Then, those who are able to move on their own, please enter yourself. I will heal everyone. If you wish to thank someone for this, thank Dolan. Now then, where’s the next heavily injured person?”

After a total of 3 「Area High Heal」, all of the dwarves in the building could once again pick up their weapons so I sent them off with a 「Area Barrier」.

“Someone please guide me to a place where there are injured people.” (Luciel)

” ... I’ll guide you.”

It was the dwarf who informed me of the first heavily wounded person.

“Okay. If there’s a life to be saved, it’s my job to do so.” (Luciel)

“I’ll be in-charge of maintaining vigilance nya.” (Cathy)

Immediately after leaving the building, the dwarf spoke.

” ... Is Dolan-san healthy?”

“Yeah. He’s back in shape and I’m having him craft various items.”

When I said that, the dwarf turned around and made to grab at me.

However, before he could do so, Cathy’s rapier was pointed at the dwarf’s neck. (TL: It’s lit. translated as a thin sword so I took the liberty to use ‘rapier’, don’t know of any other thin swords.)

“What a load of crap ... Dolan-san has already lost both his arms.”

“If it’s Dolan’s 2 arms, I’ve already properly healed them. Paula is also happily developing magical tools every day.”

After I said that with a smile, the dwarf was momentarily befuddled before he slapped himself and spoke while glaring at me.

“To sink your poisonous fangs into Paula-chan in addition to Dolan-san ...”

“Like I’ve said I have not done anything like that. Furthermore, the both of them are no longer slaves.”

“What?!”

“That’s true nya. Currently, Grand-dono is on the way to the dwarf king, you can find out about it later nya.”

“Gr, Grand-sama?! Excuse my rudeness.”

“Leave the apologies for later, I’d rather go to where the wounded who are currently in distress are?”

“This way.”

Cathy and I exchanged laughs at the dwarf who suddenly became gallant and his guiding manner professional as we followed after him.

From there, I was led to multiple other buildings and I healed the people with injuries.

When there were no longer any more wounded people within the buildings, the dwarf who was guiding us finally spoke.

“I am terribly sorry for the late introduction. I am Randall, the leader of the defence here.”

“Okay, nice to meet you. Well then, let’s go to the battle zone next.”

“Are we still able to continue? Isn’t the king waiting?”

” ... It doesn’t matter what the king is doing, the front lines are where the danger is greatest so the treatment of the wounded takes priority.”

” ... Ye ... Yes, sir.”

Randall-san’s demeanour has been steadily changing so he’s most likely a person who feels strongly for his companions.

Following him, I went around the places where they were

struggling in battle to provide healing and Cathy came back to report that all the front lines were pushing outward.

“The healed dwarves joined the battle so the tide was completely reversed nya. Furthermore, Lionel-sama is there ...”

I understood what she meant before she said anymore ... or rather, it was made known to me.

“Gahaha. This is not enough, more, come at me more.”

Hearing Lionel’s loud laughter, I could deduce the situation.

“I’ll set healing there as the last stop ... once I’ve finished treatment, could you guide me to the king?”

“Yes. Leave it to me.”

In that manner, I applied healing magic and 「Area Barrier」 on all the forces and converged with Lionel.

By the time he returned to guarding me, Lionel was smiling from the chance he had to vent his feelings.

I ignored such a Lionel and after getting rid of the odour of ants and the burnt smell with purification magic, I spoke to the dwarves in the front lines.

” ... Everyone, please work hard without overextending yourselves like my retainer here. Randall-dono, please lead the way.”

“Eh, ah, yes. This way.”

Randall-san was quite considerably shocked by the mountain-like pile of ant monster corpses but he was shaken awake by my words and began guiding us to the building where the dwarf king awaits.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 114: Treatment Of Slaves

Regarding the place I was led to where the dwarf king lived, rather than call it a home, it was more fitting to call it a temple.

It was a building with that kind of structure.

It was a construct that was reminiscent of the European temples from the memories of my previous life, so much so that I wished to have a camera to take a commemorative shot of it.

We were guided as it is to enter the building.

However, the lack of a door made me recall a strong sense of discomfort so I asked about it.

“Why isn’t there a door in this building?” (TL: As in there’s an entrance but no door to block it)

“To protect the residents who can’t fight. There’s a directive saying that they can flee here anytime.”

” ... What happens if the ones fighting outside now are rendered incapable of combat and the monsters appear when they are fleeing toward here?”

” ... We’ll most likely be trapped.”

Looks like he felt the danger I sensed.

” ... What about the king, his retainers and the king’s soldiers?”

“The ones currently fighting are the king’s soldiers and I am also one of them. ... The king will most likely also fight till the bitter end.”

The number of people is unexpectedly small for a kingdom, or maybe the population is low because a substantial amount of them engage in combat professions, so I thought.

“We’ll think about it when the time comes ... Before that, could you guide me to where the injured general citizens are?”

” ... Yes, sir. This way.”

I prioritized treating the wounded over going to the place the dwarf king was waiting.

Then, the place we moved to had many wounded individuals but ...

There weren’t any dwarves present, instead, there were many humans as well as other races.

In addition, slave crests were affixed to their arms, chests, forehead or necks.

So this is how slaves are like in this world ... I thought vaguely.

The fact that there are slaves who don't wish for recovery means there are those who wish to pass away like this, it was that kind of slaves.

" ... Is everyone here a slave?"

"Yeah. They are the slaves who were used to hold back the ant monsters at all fronts initially. These slaves can use magic so once their magical power has recovered, they will be made to return to the front lines to continue fighting."

" ... But there are those who appear to suffer from severe injuries as well though? Won't they become incapable of moving once they lose too much blood?"

"That's right. But, since it is an emergency situation, it is less objectionable for the slaves to be killed compared to our compatriots being killed."

"

Randall-san's answer was not wrong.

I would most likely do the same thing and if my position was different, I would have likely answered the same way.

I felt a chill in my body as I was pondering about that.

Then, I felt 2 warm touches on my back.

When I realized it, Lionel and Cathy were supporting me.

“This is the typical treatment of slaves.”

“The typical mindset nya.”

They smiled but also looked somewhat sad.

Perhaps, the 2 of them were thinking what if they were in their position and suffered that kind of treatment ...

“I will treat them but I would like to stop them from having to return to the front lines immediately. I will be speaking with the dwarf king after this but there is a possibility that they will be used as chess pieces as a result.”

” ... Understood. Well, I’ll be accompanying you and they have slave contracts so they can’t leave here. So there won’t be any problems.”

“Then, I’ll immediately heal them.”

When I approached the slaves, the slaves termed as general citizens stared at me with expressions frightened to despair. I applied healing magic on the slaves while acting like I didn't mind it."

Regardless of gender, there were many who suffered deep injuries.

However, apparently healing magic had been applied on the slaves to the extent of closing their wounds, by the time I finished applying my magic, all of them touched the places where they were injured countless times and confirmed it by tapping the wound locations.

When I thought that I have treated everyone, I confirmed a few slaves who were allowed to sleep on beds as if being given better treatment compared to the other slaves.

"... These slaves are?"

"They should be the slaves who are capable of using healing magic if I remember correctly."

... That completely makes me believe that they are related to the church though?

"Since when were these people obtained?"

"Perhaps the slave dealer who bought Dolan-san expanded, he

came here almost a year ago and slaves who could use healing magic were valuable so ...”

” ... What’s wrong? They’re valuable so?”

“The dwarf king’s son decided to buy them.”

” I see. What these people need is rest. Are there any other wounded people? Are there no beastmen slaves who can’t use magic?”

” ... There are no longer any remaining.”

” ... I see ... Well then, could you guide me to where the dwarf king is?”

While clenching both my fists, I forcibly smiled and squeezed out my voice.

“Ye, yes.”

For some reason, Randall-san looked at me with dread and immediately starting moving.

As the slaves noticed that I was about to leave the room, they conveyed words of appreciation.

But, I walked off without responding to their words.

Lionel and Cathy spoke to me as I walked while looking at that back of Randall-san.

” ... Shall I do the negotiations?” (Lionel)

“It will become complicated if you are that angry nya.” (Cathy)

” ... No, it’s alright. But, is it alright if I feel like crushing the Dwarf Kingdom?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. For such a thing to occur while the outside world is unaware ... it sure is typical.” (Lionel)

” ... I’ll also have to reflect on the treatment of slaves nya.” (Cathy)

“The past you 2 have is in the past. Furthermore, it might just be me who is abnormal.”

As I smiled listlessly, we had apparently arrived at a location that looked like an audience hall.

“This is the room where visitors will pass through. If Grand-sama is around, he should be here.”

When the door was opened, for some reason, it was a strange situation whereby Grand-san was defending Kefin from the dwarves.

” ... What’s this? Would anyone explain what’s happening to me?”

“Luciel-sama.”

Kefin faced me and knelt with his head bowed.

He was armed with a sword as usual but he did not unsheathe it.

Grand-san who was behind Kefin looked like he was about to speak out before he held his tongue.

“I’m still looking for an explanation as to what is the cause of this situation?”

“That slave could not protect me so he’s being chastised.”

Aresurei said without a single look of shyness.

My anger reached the apex but I spoke.

“And so, who’s the dwarf king.”

“This is the Dwarf Kingdom! Regardless of your affiliation with the church, you are in no way a person in a high position.”

Paying no heed to Aresurei's words, I conveyed my will to everyone to return to Rockford.

” ... If the dwarf king is not around, I don't care about anything else. Kefin, you did well to endure that. Let's go back. Grand-san, to think the day I would be disappointed in you would come ...”

The dwarf king called out when I had turned my heel.

“Wait, I am Rockwell, the dwarven king.”

“We're going back, everyone.”

I ignored the dwarf king's words and did not change my posture to leave the area, causing the indignant Aresurei to shout.

“That rudeness is an insult to father, don't let them escape.”

I immediately issued instructions to Lionel and the others.

“Lionel, Cathy, Kefin, I've had it, show them our ability.”

『Yes!』

No matter how stalwart and sturdy the dwarves are, it is all according to others. That does not apply to everyone.

With a swing of Lionel's flame greatsword, the dwarves' shields were dissolved and they were sent flying.

Cathy pierced their four limbs with her rapier.

Kefin was apparently considerably angry, he appeared behind Aresurei and cut off both his arms.

It didn't even take 20 seconds before everything ended.

"Dwarf Kingdom ... wouldn't it be better if such a kingdom is crushed?"

I told Rockwell who was sitting on the throne.

"Wait."

King Rockwell descended from the throne and prostrated on the ground.

"Please save this kingdom."

"I am not a saintly gentleman. Who would lend their strength to

a king who can't stop his idiotic son from running wild due to his arrogance?

This time, I only came because of requests from Dolan and Grand-san.

Moreover, the war situation will also most likely change if you, as the dwarf king, moved to the front lines.”

“My body is aged as you can see. It's impossible.”

“It seems to be so, given you have to camouflage it with that robe. Furthermore, your son most likely called for me because he wished for a pretext to punish me.”

The surroundings were wrapped in silence.

The prostrating King Rockwell trembled and began laughing heartily.

“Kukuku, gahaha. I see, so this is the man who became the S-rank healer ... how did you realise that it was a camouflage?”

“Because of Aresurei's concern towards you. Rather, not only Aresurei but all the dwarves including Grand-san.”

” ... I see, I missed out that point.”

“Well then, please do your best for whatever it is to come.”

When I once again intended to leave, an earth wall appeared. However, Lionel demolished that earth wall in an instant.

“No no, won’t you usually not want to leave after knowing that?”

King Rockwell impatiently spoke to me.

” ”

“I’m really sorry. I won’t lie anymore and I’ll even pledge to not betray you if you help us.”

“Since the spirits might be able to dispel the pledge right? Furthermore, I’m thinking that it would be better to crush the Dwarf Kingdom who’s trying to pick a fight with the church.”

” ... What do you mean?”

“Aren’t there illegal slaves among the slaves?”

“Like a king would manage slaves!”

While thinking that is quite spirited, I still answered even though I was feeling slightly irritated.

” ... Humans capable of casting healing magic are those who have joined the Healer’s Guild. Of course, it is not strange to see healers become slaves. However, those who wear those robes are only people from the church headquarters.”

“Explain it to me in an easier to understand manner.”

“The Saint Schull’s Church will not go to war unless they are invaded. In addition, I have not heard any word of them going to war lately. Now, why are 5 healers who should belong in the church headquarters forced to cast healing magic until they suffer from magical power depletion here?”

“Those who know something about it, speak up.” (Rockwell)

That voice contained quite a fair amount of fury.

The next person who spoke was Randall-san.

“With, with all due respect. About a year ago a slave dealer visited us and we were instructed to purchase them.”

“Who did?”

“Guraios-sama, Aresurei-sama and their supporters were the ones who gave the instruction to purchase. However, we were told that the slave purchase was all budgeted by the king.”

“What’s the meaning of this, Rockwell?”

Grand-san glared at King Rockwell as he asked.

“Grand, do not doubt me. I swear to the spirit-sama that I’m innocent.”

《Well, it’s true that he didn’t know.》

《Rockwell is merely a muscle brain after all.》

《He was brainwashed by the slave dealer to use slaves.》

《Idiotic face, it’s alright if you rip them off a lot, please help just this one time.》

《There will be countless others as well but we’ll also be troubled if the dwarf race disappears.》

《If this place disappears, Rockford will be in danger next time.》

To be able to hear the voices of the spirits here, I could tell that the spirits value their followers ...

“What if I withdrew from here?” (Luciel)

《Um~ Rockwell might be able to survive but everyone else will be

annihilated.》

《There a high chance that Rockwell would die as well.》

《Once that happens, the underground will collapse.》

《Idiotic face, this time, it all rests on your magnanimity.》

《Rockwell will properly pay you for the compensation.》

《Everyone apart from Rockwell is weaker than Luciel so please.》

“Can King Rockwell and the other dwarves hear this too?”

《Yes.》

“I have 5 conditions to save this kingdom. Transfer of the specified slaves, transfer of the magic stones from the monsters defeated here, Rockwell’s personal oath of allegiance to not betray me for a lifetime, thorough disciplining of his sons and Dolan’s pardon.”

The spirits disappeared after hearing that.

Lionel and the other 2 looked at me with dubious expressions but the dwarves all looked at me with astonished expressions.

“Gahaha, interesting. Alright, in exchange, add in the treatment of these guys here as well.”

” ... Fine. From now onward, King Rockwell will be affiliated with me. Swear to the Earth Spirits that you will spare no effort to wipe out the underground monsters.”

“As long as the Dwarf Kingdom is led by me, I swear to the Earth Spirit-samas that we are affiliated under Luciel-dono.”

Thus, we formed a coalition with the dwarves and head to battle with the ants.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 115: Preparation For Battle

As promised, I treated the injuries suffered by the people in the room ... though, I left any previous disabilities untreated.

“Thank you.” (Rockwell)

“Don’t mention it, since I’ll be receiving an additional fee for it. Well then, let us go to the battlefield. Of course, King Rockwell, I’ll have you participate in the battle too.” (Luciel)

“Ooo! Now you’re speaking my language.” (Rockwell)

” ... Please do so without plunging into the enemy lines.” (Luciel)

” ... Understood.” (Rockwell)

While thinking that he’s under the category of people that would be dangerous to mingle with, with his figure of going ‘hmpf’ while averting his face resembling someone else, I headed outside. (TL: Broad did the same thing. Tsundere mode lol.)

“Then, shall we go immediately? Let us immediately go and defeat the ants while spacing some breaks in between.” (Luciel)

“If that’s the case, I’ll leave the command of the slaves to you. I am unable to command any people apart from dwarves.” (Rockwell)

“Alright.” (Luciel)

As we, Grand-san, King Rockwell and his entourage walked down the corridor, we headed toward the slave room.

Not only is it better to boost our combat strength even by a little, I can also get Cathy and Kefin to investigate the matter regarding the slaves.

It's unfortunate for those slaves that have been brainwashed or those in line to be brainwashed but I judged that it was unreasonable to take any further risks. (TL: Risks as in to not take the slaves along causing them greater risk in battle.)

“Then, I'll have the slaves that have already been treated placed under my command.” (Luciel)

” ... The reason you were late was ...” (Rockwell)

“I've already finished treating those in the front lines and the wounded in the clinic at the front line. Although, I regret doing so as it exposed Kefin to danger ...” (Luciel)

“You sure trust your slaves.” (Rockwell)

“They may have the standing of slaves but I'm willing to dispel their slave contracts any time they wish for it. It's just that my

slaves all stubbornly wish to remain as slaves.” (Luciel)

” ... Why do you wish to release slaves who have such high capabilities?” (Rockwell)

” ... Because there isn’t anyone who wishes to be a slave.

Apart from criminal slaves and war slaves, it is not within my morals to oppress slaves just because of their standing as slaves.

I don’t want to see slaves give up on living just because of their standing as slaves.

Which is why I release those who have committed their all for my sake.

If you have to ask why, I guess it’s for the sake of self-satisfaction.” (Luciel)

” ... Is that normal among humans?” (Rockwell)

“No, it’s without a doubt unorthodox. However, there’s no reason why I should conform with the human race for this matter right?” (Luciel)

” ... I see.” (Rockwell)

“Incidentally, do you know who the slaves are under the command of?” (Luciel)

” ... I don’t know ... is there anyone who knows?” (Rockwell)

“Yes. I know. Most of the slaves are under Aresurei while a small number are under my command.” (Guraios)

Guraios was the one who replied.

He could convey his message across exquisitely in this situation ... but his way of speech gave me a sense of incompatibility with what I recall.

“King Rockwell, will you leave the slaves to me?” (Luciel)

” ... Alright.” (Rockwell)

“Understood. Everyone, please wait in front of the room for a while. I’ll get them to come with me.” (Luciel)

“Alright. Make it quick.” (Rockwell)

I entered the room where I healed the slaves.

When I entered, the slaves’ tension abated.

While feeling that this is not too bad if it is the compensation for healing them, I spoke.

“My enslaved gentlemen! You will all be placed under my command from now on.

I will promise you three things. I will not sacrifice you. I will heal you. I will give you time to rest. These are my three promises.”

Unrest spread among the slaves. I was able to see many faces of despair as, in the end, they were still forced to join the battle.

“If you guys swear that you will do your best, I will temporarily cancel your slave contracts here.

If you lie to or betray me, my retinue and the Dwarf King, we will make you launch a suicide attack at the ant’s nest.

Also, of course, I approve of retreating when it is impossible to fight but if you flee, we will also make you launch a suicide attack.

If you men swear to the above, I will begin the previously mentioned 3 promises as well as the temporary release of the slave contract.

It is alright to refuse if you find it disagreeable. If you choose to do so, I will by no means involve myself with you.

Well then, you will be under my command if you swear to the Gods the contents I just mentioned, what's your choice?"

After I said that, the slaves exchanged glances and checked each other out but then, a voice called out.

"Luciel-sama, I swear to God."

A woman with visibly poor complexion somehow stood up and said to me.

That woman was one of the women who was sleeping due to magical power depletion.

"I, I swear."

This time, it was a man wearing the Healer's Guild Headquarters' robe.

"I have some things I intend to ask you 2 about but I'll ask it later ... very well."

I approached the 2 of them and their slave crests disappeared when I activated 「Dispel」.

Immediately after casting 「Dispel」, another light shone but the impact of the slave crest disappearing was so strong to the slaves that they came forward with their pledges one after another.

“Now, inform my 3 retainers your name, special abilities, and spells. I’ll be setting up temporary parties later so please do not lie about it.”

After announcing that, the remaining 3 who were still sleeping also woke up and I pressed them if they would swear or not. (TL: There were 5 healers sleeping on beds)

Naturally, the 3 of them pledged as well.

“Very well. The 5 of you, I’ll listen to your story once everything is over. I leave the casting of 「Area Barrier」 and first aid to you all. As long as you don’t die, I will definitely help so please thoroughly do what you can. I know that you all won’t immediately fall back into magical power depletion so please do what you are capable of.”

『Yes!』

The 5 of them properly replied.

I also considered that they might resent me but I felt relieved that there wasn’t anyone among them who gave out such an atmosphere as I finished casting 「Dispel」 on those who applied.

Regardless if it is only temporary, there are those who felt an eruption of emotions due to the dispelling of their slave crests but naturally, there were some among them who went overboard as

well.

“Idiot, who would keep a verbal promise ... what, my body is moving on its own ... what did you do to me ... damn it!”

The man who said that might have intended to take me as a hostage but his body released a red glow and he opened the door to the slave room and burst out running.

“I’ve said so earlier but do not think lightly of your pledge to the Gods, or else you will conduct a solitary suicide mission to the ant’s nest like him, think about it carefully.”

“Er, erm, what happens when we reach magical power depletion?”

“I’ll have you retreat from the front lines and rest. I’ll heal you if you suffered any injuries. I exercise the right to command you all so please follow my instructions.”

“Ye, yes!”

“Please decide your own fate. I will not coerce you.”

After I said that, excluding the 5 healers, 15 people, 60% of the remaining 25 people, agreed.

“Well then, everyone who made the pledges will belong to my

squad. Please follow me.”

I saw the slave who did the suicide attack off from beginning to end but I decided not to let it bother me.

However, while noticing the complexion of a person become extremely bad, I spoke to King Rockwell.

“I will only borrow these people. Please order the other slaves and the dwarf race to prevent the ants from entering the Dwarf Kingdom. It’s enough for only King Rockwell and Grand-san to go to the forefront. The others are unnecessary.”

” ... Is that so? Alright.”

The peanut gallery became noisy when King Rockwell nodded.

“If that’s the case, you can come along to the forefront but you will be responsible for protecting yourself.”

Just after I announced that, the place was once again wrapped in silence.

However, I felt like I heard a small sigh from King Rockwell.

Once we left the temple, we headed to the place where there were the most ant monsters.

“Cathy, Kefin, I leave guiding the way to the 2 of you.”

『Yes!』

“By the way, King Rockwell, what is your weapon?”

“My body itself is my weapon.”

He had gauntlets equipped but they were not ordinary items.

“Those are?”

“My weapons, made from Adamantite and diamond.”

“So you use that to attack?”

“I won’t be able to win against distant foes if I do so. Which is why I use them as an extension to create things such as the earth wall previously.”

“What about cladding yourself with a golem?”

“I’ve done that when I was a child. However, I could not keep up with the magical power control so I ended up with magical power depletion half way through. I sealed that method after that.”

“You’re able to defeat the ants right?”

“As long as I’m not surrounded, I can take on any number of them.”

While thinking that it won’t be a problem if we spread out the locations where Grand-san and King Rockwell do combat as we plunged into the burrow, we headed toward the location where Lionel was fighting previously.

“It’s King Rockwell.”

Similar voices were beginning to be transmitted among the front line soldiers. Deciding that there’s a need to get a description of the current situation from the surrounding dwarves, I asked Lionel to handle the ants on his own for a couple of minutes and he dashed out looking delighted.

Looking at the situation, King Rockwell spoke before we arrived at the forefront.

“From now on, we will defend the Dwarf Kingdom as we cut into the enemy lines. Men, defend your given areas.

Also, these ex-slaves have been returned to regular citizen status by Saint Schull’s Church S-rank healer so do not command them.”

I seek your cooperation. Now, I will enter the front line as well. S-rank healer Luciel-dono will take command here. Everyone, obey his words as if they are my own.”

King Rockwell happily ran up next to Lionel who was swinging his greatsword and began crushing the ants.

The ant monsters were crushed under the overwhelming power of the 2 battle maniacs.

The soldiers who saw that were stunned with their mouths wide open one after the other but I slowly walked to the front row before I turned around and clapped my hands.

The next instant, all attention was gathered on me all at once.

“I’ll briefly explain the things to be done from now on.

I will allocate teams such as the monster defeating team responsible for defeating the majority of the monsters, defence team, mapping team, sanitation team and food team.

The 2 of them there currently fighting are the defence team leaders.

My retinue, the cat beastwoman Cathy will be the leader of the monster defeating team and will enter the burrow.

Following that, similarly, my retinue, Kefin, will be the leader for the mapping team who will confirm the situation of the burrow as Cathy’s team progresses.”

The dwarves were extremely bewildered.

Regardless of it being decided by the king, it's natural that they would be perplexed by me suddenly speaking up.

“I will be in charge of the food and sanitation but I would like help from dwarves who are not proficient in combat.

As for dwarves that can fight, I would like you all to seize the holes where the ants are appearing little by little from.

The reason why would be that there is a high possibility that this is just a diversion and I would like to entrust the true role of protecting the Dwarf Kingdom to you dwarves.

I have already received compensation from King Rockwell for the treatment of injuries so push forward without fear of injuries.”

“Stalwart and robust warriors of the Earth, cooperate with us to win back the Dwarf Kingdom's peace and taste the sweet nectar of victory.” (Luciel)

『Ooo~』

The ex-slaves cried out but there weren't any voices from the dwarves.

“What is it that you wish to protect? Pride? Or is it country? Or family? Luciel-sama is willing to help because I asked him to. Race and such does not matter. True stalwart and robust warrior of the Earth, let us win back peace for the Dwarf Kingdom and enjoy the sweet nectar of victory!” (Grand)

『Oooo~~!』

... As expected, it can't be helped that Grand-san is more popular but I still felt slightly desolate.

While spitting out a sigh, I looked at the back of Grand-san taking hold of all the good parts and the psyched up dwarves. I guess this is fine as well.

I switched thought process and trembled slightly at the thought that the curtains to the battle have finally been drawn.

Is this fear? Or am I trembling from excitement? Without knowing the answer myself, I naturally firmly pledged to my heart that I would not let anyone die.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 116: Watching The Base

The combat-profession dwarves scattered toward the points where the ant monsters were attacking from.

With that, since there weren't any non-combat profession dwarves around, only King Rockwell's entourage remained.

“Cathy, Kefin, immediately pull out if it gets dangerous. We can review our strategy after that.”

After seeing the dwarves scatter off, I began giving out instructions.

『Yes!』

I passed the 2 of them flashlights just in case.

“Fellow slaves, follow their instructions without fail. Because if not, you'll suffer from the difficult situation of charging alone into the ant's nest.”

“He, hey, are you not going to hand us weapons?”

“As might be expected, it would be impossible with just bare hands.”

Two men from among the slaves spoke out.

“Name?”

“Mapouro”

“I’m Jabron.”

I confirmed the contents of the reports on them but apart from having an aptitude to magic, there wasn’t a single word regarding weapons.

“In the first place, if your main attack is magic then there’s no need for weapons right? Furthermore, these 2 are more capable than what you gentlemen assume. As long as you all do not consider doing anything stupid, you will be able to return properly.” I admonished them.

“Let’s quickly make a move nya.”

“I won’t cause Luciel-sama any trouble.”

Once Cathy and Kefin begin walking after saying that, the slaves begin walking in droves.

“Don’t forget that from now on you guys’ lives hinges on the report by the 2 of them.”

After announcing that, their movements suddenly became

livelier and they passed through the location where Lionel and the others were fighting.

“Lionel, King Rockwell, I wish for you 2 to remain on standby.”

After I said that, the 2 of them looked spiritlessly at the cave Cathy and the others disappeared into as they buried their enemies.

That’s how we began house-watching this forward base.

“Well then, entourages of King Rockwell, where are the non-combat profession citizens?”

” ... They are at the king’s abode.”

“Then, please lead me there.”

“What do you intend to do!”

The entourages of King Rockwell glared at me as they felt concern for their non-combat profession fellows.

“I plan to have them help me with cooking. Since stress will accumulate if people go hungry.”

I answered with a smile while Grand-san once again threw in

words of persuasion toward the entourage that had slightly retracted their poisonous air.

“Luciel-dono is fundamentally kind. It’s just that lately he’s a little severe towards those that antagonize him. He won’t do anything bad.”

” ... If Grand-sama says so.”

Several of the entourage began walking toward the king’s abode.

” ... I somehow feel like you’ve been trying to appeal to me since a while ago?”

With a smile, I asked Grand-san who was currently holding all the good parts.

“What are you saying? Anybody would think that you won’t know about the fact that I hold such a degree of authority over the dwarf race after you commented that you were disappointed in me.”

Grand-san averted his gaze as he replied.

” ... I know about your authority. However, taking into consideration the fact that I didn’t know about the contents of the letter, King Rockwell’s attitude as well as the incident that happened here, it’s no wonder that I felt like I’ve been plotted against right?”

” ... Although I knew that he was the king’s son, I didn’t know that he would be so feeble-minded.”

I guess Grand-san really wasn’t aware of it. However, thinking that it would be better if the dwarves, including King Rockwell, improved on their attitudes, I continued on while incorporating some precautionary words.

“You know, everyone except King Rockwell would have died if Kefin seriously made a move? Well, it can’t be helped that Kefin didn’t unsheathe his sword.”

” ... You sure have confidence in him.”

Grand-san was instantly at a loss from hearing my words and replied as he closed his eyes.

That lost expression on Grand-san’s face was somewhat painful to see.

Which was why I frankly communicated my feelings regarding Lionel, Cathy and Kefin toward Grand-san.

“I believe that the possibility for Lionel or Cathy to become my enemy is not zero, similarly for Kefin. Even so, if they were not around, I believe that I would have died a long time ago. They may think that I am their life’s saviour, but the reverse is also true, they are also my life’s saviour.”

“Is that so? However, even though slaves normally wish to be released ... why is it that they opt to remain as slaves?”

Since Grand-san had a serious expression on after he once again opened his eyes, I chose to reply his properly.

“I am able to make a guess but I have not asked them directly. I do not intend to ask them in the future either.”

” ... You don’t have the desire to know?”

“No, I don’t. I will listen if they want me to and I will worry about it together with them. But that’s it.”

” ... Why?”

“I feel that they don’t talk to me about it because they can’t justify it themselves. Which is why I am open to discussing it with them whenever the time comes and I intend to immediately dispel their slave contracts if they ask me to do so. Though it is attached with the condition that as long as there is no imminent danger to my life.” I said and laughed.

“You won’t regret it?” Grand-san asked with an honest expression.

“I won’t. But the real test begins when everything hits a brick

wall. A perfect person doesn't exist and I am an average person. Moreover, even somebody like Sir Rainstar regrets his failures."

"You've sure grown a great deal stronger just in a couple of years."

Grand-san narrowed his eyes and nodded.

I was slightly happy to hear those words.

No matter what cheat a person holds or what ability they possess, humans will face failure.

When a large wall suddenly appears in front of your eyes, is there really just 2 options, to give up or to overcome it?

I believe what's most important is the mentality to think of other methods like changing your conceptions and break down the wall or circumventing the wall.

When competing with a major company, even if you lose out in initial cost and running cost, you can still compete if you can match other needs, instead of sticking to competing with price in particular.

In sales, it can be product knowledge, as long as you've properly researched on what the customer wants the most and propose it, it might not even matter if it is slightly pricier.

Of course, it is also a fact that not everything will go according to plan.

Nevertheless, if you give up at every step, then that would be the end.

“It may take a long period of time to bounce back once I regret it. Even so, time continues to flow regardless, so I will move forward little-by-little doing what I can on a daily basis.”

” ... For us dwarves, this may be the time we must press onward.”

Grand-san’s mutterings didn’t reach my ears.

Just as we reached a pause in our conversation, the 5 released healers came into sight.

They were all afraid but, although I could understand it was due to them being in a dimly lit cave, I didn’t spend time on that matter. Normally, healers do not go to places where monsters appear. Not to mention a dim cavern. I was reminded that it’s something mentally straining to healers.

Looking at the 5 of them, I recalled the days I desperately sought after Instructor Broad’s training and felt like commending myself.

If I was ever to relive my life here, I would most likely take the

same action I did in the town of Meratoni ... ah, I've been caught up in my own train of thought.

“Well then, can the 5 of you healers introduce yourselves for now? Ah, before that, I'll introduce myself. I'm Luciel, S-rank healer returning to the church headquarters from the Ienith branch.”

They were not surprised by my self-introduction.

They must have been told by those who knew.

“Then I'll start, former Healer Merrido from Prusta of the Rubruk Kingdom.”

“Similarly, former Healer Fanz from Prusta of the Rubruk Kingdom.”

“Naratto from Deresdo of the Elimasia Empire.”

“Similarly, Norman from Deresdo of the Elimasia Empire.”

“Estia from Ebiza of the Saint Schull Allied Nations.”

“Sorry but since it is an emergency situation, I'll speak in accordance with rank. Is everyone able to use 「Area Barrier」?”

『Yes!』

“No.”

“So, the 4 of you, please split yourselves into 2 groups and chant 「Area Barrier」at the places where the dwarves are gathering until you feel like you are about to reach magical power depletion then return.”

“Erm, isn't it better to heal?”

“The truth is, that is better. However, if the level is low, the number of times you can use the magic is low so please raise your levels.”

“Levels can be raised by doing so?”

The 4 of them gave questioning looks but I affirmed it.

“I believe it will be raised. I've experienced it myself countless times. But, it is influenced by your magical power proficiency so please work seriously.”

『Yes!』

They formed pairs according to their affiliations and headed to different locations.

“Well then, you’re not a healer?”

When I spoke to the remaining girl Estia, she quietly nodded and replied.

“I’m a Spirit Magic Swordsman.”

“Spirit Magic Swordsman?”

“Yes. I don’t know about others but that is what my job is.”

” ... You can use spirit magic?”

“Fufu, yes. Spirit magic consist of light, fire, water, earth, wind, darkness, lightning, ice and wood, 9 attributes and I use magic by asking spirit-san and compensating with magical power.”

Spirit version of Magic Swordsman? If she’s similar to Sir Rainstar, perhaps this woman is also strong?

Although the Valkyrie Paladin Corps, Cathy, and Naria are all in the category of being stronger than me ...

” ... So, what can you do?”

“I can do some healing, support, attack and obstruction magic as well as use a sword and shield.”

” ... Why did you become a slave?”

“I was abducted onto a slave dealer’s carriage when I was on the way to have my meal at rice shop-san after shopping.”

She’s completely an illegal slave ... however, are there shops that sell sleeping medications? I questioned myself while the words rice shop-san gave me a sense of incompatibility.

” ... Rice shop-san?”

“Erm, a place that serves meals.”

“A restaurant huh ... how capable are you in combat?”

Perhaps she’s a reincarnated individual ... no, it felt like I was leaping to conclusions but I made sure to be careful as to not say anything careless.

“Probably the best among the slaves?”

” ... I see.”

I took out my holy silver sword and shield and passed them to Estia.

“Swear to the gods and spirits, I want to hear your declaration to join the battle and not cause any detriment to me, my retinue and the dwarves.”

” ... I swear.”

“Be my bodyguard for a while.”

“Eh? You’re not going to thrust me into the ant’s nest?”

“You’ll be subjected to attack if you screw up when you enter the cavern now. Since that’s the case, it’s more efficient to prepare food and rest for everyone.”

” ”

Estia averted her eyes.

I could guess what was going through her mind but, as I was thinking of delegating to her the task of handling the vegetables for Sparkling-kun to wash, the dwarves who went to the king’s abode had returned. (TL: Sparkling-kun is the magic tool bought from the reincarnated lady/girl’s shop Luciel encountered quite some time ago and produced by her as well.)

They also brought along non-combat profession dwarf women and children.

Because the group carried along with them the food materials, there were crockeries like giant pots.

“Thank you very much for coming. Cooking will be done close to the battle but I will commit effort to make sure that everyone does not face any dangers. As proof, I will expand a defensive barrier around everyone.”

I announced the fact that I would apply an 「Area Barrier」 to slightly ease their worries and deployed an 「Area Barrier」.

The dwarves were bewildered at the start but after they realized that they did not feel any pain when their hands and faces were tapped lightly, they began to be in high spirits.

“Everyone, it’s good to be in high spirits but you should be preparing the food.”

Immediately after King Rockwell’s comment, the dwarves promptly began moving and I helped them as I waited for Cathy and Kefin to return.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 117: Corpses Of The Disappeared Monsters

Cathy, Kefin, and the former slaves returned about when the cooking was done.

When I received their offer of vegetables, I offered them spices in exchange and the dwarf aunties gave shrill cheers.

After that, I discussed cooking with them in full harmony but I found out that Estia completely could not cook so she was totally out of the loop.

I started listening to Cathy and group's report on the situation of the cavern.

“How's the inside like?”

“It proceeded in the direction of the monsters becoming stronger nyan.” (Cathy)

“However, because in addition to the large numbers, they do not disappear while leaving only magic stones like in labyrinths. Hence, it was quite hard to proceed with our search.” (Kefin)

If that's the case, then we have no choice but to recover the corpses while proceeding?

Even if I assign magic bags to them ... I can't assign magic bags to the slaves.

In other words, there's no other choice but for me to take up the role of recovering the monsters?

If we continue to remain here, the monsters might attack Rockford instead and it would also be disastrous ... that line of thought is valid as well.

No, if we work the former slaves ...

" ... What about the former slaves?"

"Unfortunately, it might work if it is above ground but underground it would be suicide and can't be done nya."

"It's not that wide inside. It would be hard to coordinate cooperation with large numbers and I believe it would inversely cause a difficult situation whereby it would be hard to move about."

" ... I see. Former slaves, after you get your rest, please defend this location to the last man."

So it's hopeless ... my wish was severed.

Well, even though I could understand from the dark expressions

that were on both of their faces.

“Will we return to being slaves?”

“Or will you make us suicide to the ant monster’s nest?”

I only demanded one thing from the frightened former slaves.

“As long as you all securely defend this location and the other 2 caves, I promise to not treat you badly.”

“Thank god.”

“We’ll absolutely defend this place and win our freedom!”

『Oooo!』

The former slaves were in high spirits but I didn’t have an ounce of intention to let the criminal slaves and war slaves loose.

After our meal and rest, we and King Rockwell had our nap.

I left instructions to substitute the dwarves at the respective caves and for them to take their meals.

Thus, after waking from a couple of hours of nap, we begin storming the cave.

“Then, shall we go? Before that, those with nose plugs?”

Lionel and group immediately raised their hands.

King Rockwell and Estia who were unaware of Object X tilted their heads.

“Oh well. This amount of stench can even transform clean air so plug your noses with these.”

I passed nose plugs to everyone.

“Is it really alright for me to not go in as well?”

“I’d be at ease with the defence if Grand-san remains here. Moreover, the Dwarf Kingdom residents feel that way as well. Former slaves, listen to Grand-san’s words! Alright, some nasty smell might float over but please don’t be alarmed.”

“Understood.”

Thus, I stormed into the cavern that I had no intention of entering.

“It’s fine for me to just shine the light like this?” Estia asked me.

“Yeah. Please tell me immediately if you see any places to take note of or where the enemies might appear from when we’re advancing.”

“Understood.”

I asked Estia to play the role of shining the light from the second row.

We advanced with King Rockwell who has great manoeuvrability at the lead, Kefin, Estia, and Cathy lined up in the second row and with me and Lionel at the rear.

“There are many corpses but looking closely, the monsters sure seem small.”

“It certainly seems that way. However, they will gradually increase in size after we enter the branching passage.”

“I think that now monsters will appear as well nya.”

“I leave it to you. We’ll proceed and place Object X at the branching passage.”

After I announced that to Cathy and Kefin, perhaps because their tension was transmitted, King Rockwell and Estia asked.

“Is that Object X bad to such an extent?”

“Furthermore, is it capable of weakening the monsters just by placing it there?”

“It’s just smelly. To the extent that monsters run away from it. It’s even possible to drink it after everything is over. Incidentally, if you waste it, you will receive penalties in accordance with the pledge to the Philosopher-sama.”

” ... So it’s something like that huh.”

“If that’s the case, why isn’t it widespread?”

“Because one must definitely finish drinking it.”

” ... That means you ...”

“Of course, I can drink it without any issue.”

Their faces paled a little when I said that with a laugh.

To have that expression before they have a whiff of the smell ... I could immediately tell that they were wondering about how to judge me. Moreover, it’s certainly not anything good.

As we advanced through the cavern, the corpses of monsters gradually increased.

I was storing the corpses in my magic bag but then, both Cathy and Kefin began to describe suspicious points in sync.

“Weird nya. There should be more monsters that I dealt the final blow to nya.”

“Certainly. Such a small number is certainly abnormal.”

Both of them said that there should have been more ant monsters that were defeated.

Since neither of them was the type to serve up strange stories, I considered if it was due to the case whereby the corpses disappear after being left for a certain amount of time like in a labyrinth or that the ants carried them back.

” ... They might have been carried back by the ants. ... Taking that into consideration, there’s a possibility that the monsters will become stronger from here onward. If that’s the case, I should have come along from the beginning to recover the corpses.”

“Nobody could have known about such a thing. Since Luciel-sama has currently entered such a dangerous cave, you don’t need to feel ashamed to anyone.”

Lionel said so and all the members nodded synchronously, causing my body to feel slightly lighter.

“Thank you. Let’s do what we can for now.”

Leaving the monsters that come out to the 3 people vanguard, I earnestly concentrated on collecting the corpses and applying purification magic.

When we reached the fork, just as we were about to proceed onward after placing the barrel of Object X to repel the monsters, I stopped temporarily.

“Please wait a moment.”

I prayed to the Gods for which direction to proceed down and let the Illusionary Cane fall on its own, pointing to the opposite direction of where Cathy and the others were heading toward. (TL: Lol)

“You may think that it’s childish but this time, please use this route.”

Cathy and Kefin looked at each other and laughed as they agreed.

“It doesn’t matter to me which way we take nya.”

“I am Luciel-sama’s retainer after all.”

“Thank you.”

I told them that with a smile and had thus decided on the direction we would proceed in.

King Rockwell and Estia gave strange looks for that but I ignored it and advanced.

“The number of monsters has increased.”

Just like what King Rockford announced, weak but numerous monsters appeared the way ahead of the right fork we took.

I steadily collected the corpses but the ants reacted to the disappearing corpses.

“Their movements are slightly different from before nya.”

” ... That’s certainly true.”

As evidence to that (the ants reacting to the missing corpses), Cathy and Kefin seemed like they felt something was out of place.

“Due to the numbers of these ant monsters, they might not have enough food to go around. If monsters eat as well, then with cannibalism, it would not be strange if they are individuals who become even stronger by doing so.” (Lionel)

” ... It doesn’t look like this is a place where the corpses disappear like in a labyrinth.” (Luciel)

Lionel looked like he recalled some discomfort from the words I said.

“Perhaps the monsters will become stronger from here on out so advance while maintaining vigilance.”

『Yes!』

While saying so, they discovered that there was another fork in the passage once again and I, in the same way, placed Object X and used the Illusionary Cane to decide on the path to proceed on.

“The passage is gradually widening.”

Estia suddenly said so. It certainly feels like the width of the passage has widened.

“It seems like the enemy numbers have increased as well.”

King Rockwell announced and the 3 vanguards rushed forward.

“It doesn’t look like there will be an attack from behind but monsters may gradually head toward here from the different passages.” Lionel informed me.

“Why do you think so?”

“For an organization that protects the king and queen, it’s the norm. The monsters in labyrinths don’t seem to be related between floors but I’ve heard that ordinary monsters have a pecking order.”

“Your source of information?”

“The Jasuan-Jais brothers.”

I couldn’t imagine when he collected the information without me realizing.

While feeling relieved that Lionel did not waste his time in the town of Ienith, I was once again impressed by Lionel’s greatness to be recognized by the Dragonewt race.

“Well then, I’ll continue retrieving.”

When I began collecting the corpses, the ants aimed for me and attacked.

However, the 3 vanguards suppressed the majority of them and the number of monsters that headed my way was not many.

“Even I can take on one or two without a problem.”

I transformed the Illusionary Cane into a sword and cleaved

through them.

I pulverised the monster that was attacking from my blind spot with a spear thrust backward.

“Didn’t Whirlwind teach you that it’s taboo to be conceited?”
(TL: Whirlwind = Instructor Broad)

“It’s because I trust that Lionel would not overlook any danger. But it was slightly scary though ...”

I admit that I do have some complacency that even if I’m injured, as long as I do not die from a single hit, it would somewhat be alright, indeed, it’s true that I was too careless this time but I believed that Lionel would come in to assist if anything happens.

... I was keenly aware that I truly rely on and trust Lionel.

“You plan to die of old age right?” (Lionel)

“Yeah. So please protect me.” (Luciel)

“I’ll do my best.” (Lionel)

When Lionel and I laughed as we head to the front, Estia was trembling.

“Estia, if you’re afraid, shine the light from the back line.

” ”

As I defeated the ants attacking me, Estia spoke before I could speak.

“The friendship among men sure is great. Ah, this time, it’s a master-slave relationship huh! It looks great.” (Estia)

She wasn’t scared at all.

“Please let me know if you’re tired. I will be your shield or sword anytime.” (Estia)

She illuminated the place with the flashlight while looking pleased.

I acted as if she wasn’t present and was determined to conquer the cavern.

Just like that, we proceeded through another 2 forks in the passage and came out to an open location but, the figures of large bipedal ant monsters eating the dead ants could be seen everywhere.

“Is it a higher species?”

“The number is a little large nya.”

“We have no way of reading the opponent’s ability so it might become a tough battle if they all strike at once.”

The bipedal ants were certainly different from the other ant monsters, about the size of goblins, but I didn’t feel any pressure from them.

“Lionel.”

I passed him his flame greatsword and gave out orders.

“If Lionel can send the monsters flying, Cathy will support Lionel, Kefin will defend me as I collect the corpses and Estia will protect King Rockwell here.”

“I can fight as well?” (Rockwell)

“I know, but for some reason, I totally don’t feel that this will be such a tough battle. Leave it to us.”

King Rockwell reluctantly compromised.

Thus, our battle with the higher monster species began.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 118: Ecology Of Ants

Until now, we could defeat the individuals we've been fighting with just a single blow. However, we have no idea about the durability of the higher species. For that reason, I thought of judging it with Lionel's single blow but it failed to function as the evaluating criteria.

"... A single blow."

The ants looked like they held antagonistic sentiment toward the foreign body that suddenly entered. However, Lionel readied his large shield and when he plunged his flaming greatsword clearly into their ranks, the higher species' body was cleaved and sent flying and they did not make any other moves.

Or rather, the ants certainly began moving but Cathy and Kefin annihilated them such that they did not interfere with Lionel.

"I can't quite determine the strength of this specimen." (Kefin)

"Let's do what we can here." (Luciel)

"You're right." (Kefin)

As I talked with Kefin, we ran toward the ant corpses that had piled high and I steadily collected them.

Even I was able to defeat the approaching ant monsters with a single blow. The retrieval of the monsters wasn't that unreasonable a job.

However, the higher species left to Kefin weren't so easily defeated. Although he could subdue them, he could not kill them instantly.

"Kefin, are you alright?"

"Their endurance sure is high. They indirectly also firmly defend themselves ... Luciel-sama, I'll create a gap so could I trouble you to cut them down with that sword?"

As might be expected, I was slightly puzzled but I still immediately agreed.

"... Please teach me the timing."

"Understood. Then, please follow my timing when I hit them."

"Roger that."

I matched Kefin's timing.

When Kefin hit the higher species, I slashed at it when I peaked an opportunity and I was able to easily slice through it while feeling just a slight bit of resistance.

“As expected, Luciel-sama’s equipment is slightly over-the-top.”

“I think so too. Well then, I’ll collect the monster corpses until another higher species come attacking.”

“Yes!”

Kefin and I cleared the mountain pile in order, one pile at a time.

” ... There isn’t much meaning for us to be here.” (Estia)

” ... Thanks to them moving violently over there, none of the monsters are coming to attack us.” (Rockwell)

“At any rate, aren’t they way too strong?” (Estia)

Swinging his flaming greatsword, Lionel sent all of them flying altogether, regardless of ordinary species or higher species.

Cathy was using a hit and run technique, maintaining a constant distance as if doing a dance while sequentially guiding the monsters during intervals between Lionel’s attacks, making it such that not that much time was spent.

After that, while I was still retrieving the corpses of the ants into my magic bag, I begin wondering what this place was.

Without any subsequent passages opened, there weren't any other entrances or exits apart from the one we entered by.

"... Perhaps, we took the wrong passage?" (Luciel)

"It might be reasonable to think of this place as a food storage."
(Lionel)

"It's a little too short nya." (Cathy)

Lionel and Cathy came closer to me to protect me as I was thinking.

"I was certain that a good direction would definitely be pointed to by trying my luck using the falling cane method." (Luciel)

At that spot, I once again stood the Illusionary Cane and released my hand.

Please guide our way.

"... What's the meaning of this?" (Luciel)

The Illusionary Cane remaining standing without falling over.

"Amazing nya. Perhaps the main culprit is right below us nya."

(Cathy)

“It might not be a bad idea to bet on Luciel-sama’s luck.” (Lionel)

Cathy and Lionel’s words opened my eyes.

“King Rockwell ... please open a cave downward.” (Luciel)

” ... Alright. Distance yourselves a little.” (Rockwell)

While looking at me with quizzical eyes, King Rockwell who has sworn allegiance to me, placed his hand on the surface and a circular cave was made in the center of the room.

Then, Estia approached and shined the light down, reflecting on wriggling figures of ants not further than 3 meters away.

“I’ll go this time.”

King Rockwell said so and leaped into the cave.

None of us, me, thinking to plan our strategy before going in, Lionel, and the others, had the time to stop him.

“So selfish.”

We chased King Rockwell’s movement forward with our eyes, the

ants didn't make any other movements other than wriggling and he quickly stood up with a single step on the membrane.

The next instant, he looked at us and announced.

“This is the place where the ant monsters are born.”

I want to go back right now.

Is it a luxury to have that thought right now?

As I asked myself that, I gave out instructions.

“Proceed with the mind that it's a labyrinth's boss room. Before that, think of that as the queen ant's abdomen so to be safe, I'll apply 「Aura Coat」 and 「Area Barrier」.”

『Yes!』

After I finished casting my magic, Kefin spoke.

“I'll go in first. After confirming the situation, it may depend on the situation but I can grab that dwarf and retreat while in your field of view.”

“I leave it to you.”

“Confirm the width of the place and the number of enemies too nya.”

“Understood.”

Kefin descended and in an instant, came back.

“What’s wrong? Did something happen?”

I was shocked at why he returned instantly and Kefin immediately replied with the situation below.

” ... It is without a doubt the spawning site of the ants. Rather than that, the place King Rockwell is currently on is the back of the queen ant. The cave is narrow and it can’t move but there’s no mistake that tons of monsters are being born.”

A single queen ant can give birth to these many monsters? Apart from that threat, it doesn’t seem dangerous.

Assuming that is where countless ants are endlessly being born ... if we leave it unattended now, mankind will be exposed to danger.

Thinking back, because of Sir Rainstar’s action making it such that a labyrinth would not form, it swayed the outcome to this. However, he wouldn’t have been able to imagine that the good intentions he executed would turn into danger 300 years in the future. (TL: I’m super lost about this part. I’m guessing that Rainstar constructed Rockford and made a pact with the Earth

Spirits to make it such that a labyrinth would not form to keep the town safe. May be the reason why there is an Earth Dragon but no labyrinth.)

” ... I’ll assume that is the queen. We don’t know if they evolve via cannibalism but if we do not defeat it today, the world would be overrun by ant monsters.”

“Shall we puncture the abdomen at one go? Or do we aim for the head or its nucleus the magic stone?”

“We’ll divide it. The monsters might appear if we rush over to the head. I’ll leave the current location to King Rockwell, Kefin and I will aim for the magic stone while I leave the head portion to the 2 of you. Estia will be the flashlight personnel and pair with King Rockwell.”

『Yes!』

It’s too dangerous as I can’t trust King Rockwell and I have absolutely no idea on Estia’s capability.

I’ll have to get Kefin and the others to investigate that later.

Those thoughts passed through my mind. However, there wasn’t much time so we quickly began our operation.

After a deep breath and leaping down, the ant’s back was a lot softer than I imagined.

... I could immediately verify the ant's size, I calculated that its total length exceeded 25 meters.

It felt wider than a 25-meter pool when I descended onto its back.

“Is it even possible to defeat this?” (Luciel)

“Everything is possible if you set your sights to it, but various monsters will be hatching forth so we have no choice but to defeat it in one shot and continue defeating the others.” (Lionel)

“We have no choice but to do it nya.” (Cathy)

“Let's go.” (Kefin)

“Ha~. Alright, good luck.” (Luciel)

『Yes!』

Thus, we began running forward.

Incidentally, I left it to Estia to explain everything to King Rockwell.

I channeled magical power into my Illusionary Sword and under Kefin's guidance, moved toward the location where the ant's magic

stones are located and deeply pierced it with my Holy Dragon Spear.

If this was a labyrinth, this queen ant would have raised its death throes and finally transformed into a magic stone.

But, reality is not so kind after all.

The ants within the queen ant's body began eating from the inside and others from the caves leading into this room began flocking toward the queen ant's corpse.

Although the queen ant is dead, possibly because there were ants inside, I could not store it inside the magic bag.

“Even though I’ve collected the core magic stone, I don’t know how many specimens would transform into higher species after eating the queen ant. King Rockwell will blockage the room by caving the passages in, Lionel, chop the queen ant up. The others will be supports.”

I ran toward Lionel's direction without listening to the replies.

The next instant, Lionel beheaded the queen ant.

I sliced the incoming ant monsters as I collected the head.

Even if I'm surrounded, as long as I chant 「High Heal」, I won't

die unless it's an instantaneous death.

I collected the corpses during the time between Lionel's circular slices while Cathy, Kefin, and I continued to defeat the monsters at the places where they were becoming active.

If their equipment was complete, would we have finished much more easily?

Even though that crossed my mind, the only thing we could do now was to do our best and I finally collected the whole body of the queen ant into my magic bag. It took roughly about 30 minutes?

After that, we continued cutting up the endless ant monsters but other than Kefin getting to the verge of death due to his weapon breaking countless times, nobody else was injured.

In addition, I heightened my vigilance toward Estia who had combat strength that surpassed Kefin.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 119: Mastermind Of The Threat

Among our 5 magic bags, 3 of them had reached their storage limit. They were all completely packed with the corpses of the ant monsters.

Taking that into consideration, you could imagine the unimaginable number we had annihilated.

All the monsters were defeated with a single strike thanks to our equipment and my outstanding retinue.

In the first place, why were we stuck in this position?

My anger welled up against King Rockwell beside me who looked like he was about to die with his pale complexion.

“Have the dwarves deal with the remaining monsters.”

I told King Rockwell.

” ... I know. I’ll give the orders when we return.”

As expected, he was reflecting on his actions as visible from his expression and his words.

Aside from that, I could also tell that he could not agree to the fact that he was the only one among us that looked like he was

about to collapse.

Though due to him being the only person who does not have 「Aura Coat」 applied on him, he could no longer remain standing due to miasma intoxication.

Then, Lionel and Cathy raised the issue with the Dwarf Kingdom.

“If the problem with the Dwarf Kingdom is not properly dealt with, the root of evil will remain.”

“Eventually, if those 2 people continue on to lead the Dwarf Kingdom, I feel like there would not be a future for the Dwarf Kingdom nya.”

I nodded to that and told King Rockwell.

“As you have it, in the future, I would like it if you stop entangling us in these kind of situations?”

King Rockwell bit his lips and kept silent.

Reluctantly, I spoke to Estia.

“Estia, you’re considerably strong.”

“This is all due to the strength borrowed from the Spirits.”

“I see ...”

For some reason, when I look at Estia, I get a sense of repulsion?

I have no idea if it is because I don't trust her or if it is because of something else. (TL: It's because she's a fujoshi xD)

As expected, I don't intend to continue staying down here so I looked toward the hole in the ceiling for our way back just to realise that the height was roughly about 10 meters.

” ... It sure isn't a distance we can cover by leaping.”

Just as I thought of casting 「Dispel」 on King Rockwell, Lionel spoke to me.

“Luciel-sama, I remember that you have a rope with you?”

“Yeah. You need it?”

I took out the rope and passed it to Cathy instead of Lionel.

Because Cathy had her hand out.

“Cathy, remember to check your surroundings.” (Lionel)

“Yes nya. Lionel-sama.”

The next instant, Cathy rode on the flat side of Lionel’s greatsword that was not clad in flames and Lionel swung her upward.

Cathy kicked off the flat side of the greatsword and crossed the distance to the hole in the ceiling.

“I’ll go too.”

Lionel nodded when Kefin said so and with similar actions, Kefin also disappeared from the cave. At the same time, the rope descended down.

“Ah, that was fast. King Rockwell, can you move?” (Luciel)

“Are you sure you want me to go first?” (Rockwell)

“Yeah. You are aware that your head and your torso would separate if you try to do something like confining us down here right?” (Luciel)

“Hmph, I’ve heard that you are naive but you aren’t that naive.” (Rockwell)

“It’s because those around me are excellent.” (Luciel)

With my smile, he turned his face away and climbed up.

“After he reaches the top, we’ll go with the order of Estia, Lionel and then me.” (Luciel)

“I cannot accept the decision to allow Luciel-sama to be the last person.” (Lionel)

“There’s a reasoning behind it. In the event that I’m confined down here or the monsters appear, Lionel and the others will come to my rescue right?” (Luciel)

When I jokingly said that, Lionel reluctantly acknowledged.

After Estia and Lionel had gone up, the rope was raised with amazing momentum when I placed my hand on the rope.

“Ku.”

I firmly grasped onto the rope but I was thrown out into the air at the same time as I felt the pain in my shoulder from that extraordinary pull.

And then the spectacle I saw below was that of the subordinate dwarves that were King Rockwell’s entourage, the former slaves who refused my invitation as well as the figures of the injured Cathy and others and King Rockwell who pulled the rope up.

When I landed, I performed a magic circle chant for 「High Heal」 to cover all the members and restore them in the blink of the eye, causing the dwarves and former slaves to show astonished expressions.

” ... What’s the situation?” (Luciel)

“At the same time King Rockwell climbed up, these people came and released magic nya.” (Cathy)

” ... King Rockwell?” (Luciel)

“Really sorry. I will deal with this. Sorry but I’d like to trouble you with the slaves.” (Rockwell)

King Rockwell’s son Guraios began speaking.

“Father. You’ve become decrepit. I know of the single man that destroyed Rockford a couple of centuries ago. But, 300 long years after that, that monster has never appeared again.

We will kill father and those humans and show everyone that we can govern the human race from underground.”

” ... Guraios, even you will bare your fangs toward me?”

King Rockwell’s words that he squeezed out caused Guraios’s shoulder to tremble ... and he began to laugh.

“Fufu. I was the one who gradually warped Aresurei. It was as if father did not notice at all.” (Guraios)

“You bastard, from when! Since when did you begin to have such thoughts.” King Rockwell drew closer to Guraios even during his rage.

“It has already been a couple of years. I’ve just been planning to incite the ants a little more to dig out the underground~”(Guraios)

“Don’t tell me, you ...” (Rockwell)

“Yeah. That ant was something I was nurturing. Well, the number became slightly too many and it became troublesome though.” (Guraios)

“Wait a minute. Why are you trying to destroy your own country?”

I could not resist from asking.

“What will come from telling you people who are going to die now? Hey, kill them. I still have something I need father to do for me so don’t kill him.”

When Guraios said so, the dwarves charged and the slaves began weaving their chants.

“Cathy, Kefin, Estia, I leave you all to deal with the slaves. Lionel will be on standby.”

The next instant, Cathy and the other 2 disappeared to nullify the slaves.

I had a single doubt.

The slaves are a separate matter but why do the dwarves not have anxious expressions even though they know of Lionel and the other's ability?

I was only curious about that one thing.

Even though the slaves screamed out in pain with the tendons of their feet and arms pierced, they did not stop chanting.

“I wonder what kind of order has been given to them.”

I muttered at the same time as I immediately applied 「Dispel」 on the slaves with magic circle chant. At that point, the attack from the dwarves was incoming.

“Knock them out! I leave it to you, Lionel.”

“Understood.” Similar to when he was in the audience with the king, he blew the dwarves away.

“Guraios, what have you done to them!” (Rockwell)

“Hmph, since they weren’t useful, I made it such that they would be useful.”

Even after using 「Recover」 and 「Dispel」, the dwarves could not recover from the miasma.

“Kukuku. It’s meaningless no matter what you do. Kill them along with father! Aim for that robed man.”

When Guraios asserted so, the dwarves came toward me as if possessed. However, I noticed that the dwarves were somewhat daunted to advance when Lionel swung his flaming greatsword around. When I chanted 「Purification」 from the purification magic just to be certain, they all collapsed one after another.

“Wha, what have you done?” Guraios asked me.

“That’s my line. What are you thinking to make your companions into undead.”

I bluntly asked Guraios who converted the dwarves of his own race into undead.

“Undead?!” King Rockwell could not hide his surprise.

“Father, what are you so surprised about? These guys are my servants so it’s not a problem no matter what I do to them.”

“Unforgivable, Luciel-dono and members, I request of you all to deal with these people.”

King Rockwell wielded his fist while looking pale but the next instant, the earth swelled up and pierced through Guraios’s stomach.

” ... You idiot!” (Rockwell) (TL: King Rockwell was fainting)

“Eh? Was father always this weak?”

Guraios grinned as he touched the earth blade that pierced his chest and the earth blade crumbled without a trace.

“?! Wha, what?”

“Father, you’re too naive. Is that your full strength ... wha!?”

The next moment, Guraios was wrapped in light.

“I will not forgive those concerning the undead and neither will I question anything.” (Luciel)

After I thoroughly dealt with the slaves with 「Dispel」 and

「Purification」, I performed 「Sanctuary Circle」 with 「No Chant」.

Then, after the light that wrapped around Guraios stopped, Guraios collapsed on the spot.

After looking at the slaves and confirming that they were still alive, I continued to release them apart from the infiltrators from the Empire.

“Why, why did you not come consult me?”

King Rockwell approached Guraios and touched his body.

” ... Don’t touch me! Why? Because I resent father. And I will continue to do so even after this, forever.”

Guraios announced as his body crumbled like sand.

“To think that a person who can stop me after I swallowed a magic stone to become a demon exists ... so unlucky.” (Guraios)

Immediately after Guraios disappeared, leaving behind a magic stone, the couple of slaves who infiltrated from the Empire went into convulsions and died.

“Guraios, Guraios — !”

King Rockwell continued to call out Guraios's name while in tears.

Thus, while leaving behind an ill feeling in my heart, we had removed the threat toward the Dwarf Kingdom and Rockford.

Author's note:

Thank you for reading.

Interview With Nanaera-San

Thank you as always for reading Invincible Saint.

Today, I have invited Nanaera-san as our guest.

Author: Well then, since Broad-san is in a bad mood, today we have the receptionist in the Adventurer's Guild, Nanaera-san with us. Welcome.

Nanaera: Thank you for having me.

Author: Firstly, with the first volume of Invincible Saint going up for sales on the 30th of this month, what are your thoughts about it?

Nanaera: Yeah. Thanks to the hard work of the editor Mr. I, my number of appearances increased.

Author: Erm ... the author also did his best to increase it you know?

Nanaera: Thank you for that.

Author: Don't mention it ... then, for your debut scene, are there any differences with the web version?

Nanaera: Yes. In various ways /// (TL: Indicates blushing)

Author: Then, which scene in particular left you with the strongest impression?

Nanaera: The scene of the weakened Luciel-kun. (TL: I'm guessing she meant the moment when Luciel found out the labyrinth was real xD)

Author: I see. Finally, please leave a word to all the readers.

Nanaera: I feel that with the efforts of Mr I-sama, unlike the web version, in the book, I did not fade into the background so please get one by all means.

Author: Tha, thank you. Today's guest was Nanaera-san.



Interview Attempt

At the training ground below the Adventurer's Guild, Broad called out to his disciple Luciel.

“Luciel, it appears that today is the release date for the first volume of Invincible Saint.”

“Eh is that so? But I heard that the author was planning to come over to conduct an interview?”

He tilted his head in confusion as he was originally told that the author would come by to have an interview.

“Ah~ He most likely found it hard to approach due to my intimidation. Since Luciel has been training with me all this time.”

The memory of the suspicious interviewer who came a few days back for an interview surfaced in his head.

“Instructor, why did you do that! To deprive me of my rest time ...”

“Hmm? If you wish so dearly for time to rest, then try taking one of my hits.”

“Really? Well then, O Holy Dragon, protect my body. O Wind Dragon, bestow me a barrier that protects my body from all. O

Lightning Dragon, bestow me the power to nullify all. ... Eh? It's not invoking?"

The future where Luciel won against Broad ... was a dream that he saw when he had fainted just now.

"Luciel, what are you doing looking half-asleep? Hurry up and continue your training, you beansprout." (TL: No idea what ヒヨ口助 means. :x)

"By the way, Instructor Broad ... you've aged once again ..."

"You sure have the guts. I'll thoroughly drive you today."

A blue vein popped on Broad's forehead and he gave a ferocious smile as he grasped Luciel's collar.

"It, it hurts, wa, wait a moment. What about the conversation about the book?"

"That will most likely be done by the trembling author there."

"Wha!? I'll have the interview now!"

Luciel cried out in a loud voice but the author gave in to Broad's intimidating aura.

“Well then, here we go.”

Luciel was dragged and brought to the center of the training ground.

Author: Today's for a special edition on Object X ... Ah, it's useless ... today is the release date for the first volume of Invincible Saint~ Salaryman, the path I walk to survive in this other world~!! By the next volume, I'll somehow ...

The author resolved to put together the special report on Object X next time.





Chapter 120: Existence That Spirits Fear

The keepsake of his son ... I purified the magic stone and softly handed it over to King Rockwell.

“I’m worried about the fact that these people could come all the way here. There’s a chance that Grand-san and the others are injured. Let’s quickly return.” I announced to everyone.

At that point, Lionel asked about the treatment regarding the former slaves.

“These slaves, no, former slaves, what should we do with them?”

When I glanced over at the former slaves, the former slaves stared at me with frightened looks while trembling.

“We’ll return first. Former slaves, it doesn’t matter to me if you escape if you intend to. However, I will not guarantee your lives.”

“No, no way.”

“Please save us.”

They clung to us but these men and women were those who did not raise their hands at that time.

Even though they had their chance ... but, if I could have

demarcated it like that, it would have been much easier.

As I was having that thought, I pondered about how we should treat the former slaves if they came along with us but rather than that, I was more concerned about Grand-san and the others now so I conveyed my intention to immediately begin moving out.

“King Rockwell. Wouldn’t it be better to mourn after you confirm that your other son is alright?”

” ... Okay.”

King Rockwell kept the magic stone that was once Guraios close to his bosom, wiped his tears and stood up.

Once I used 「Area High Heal」, the injuries on the former slaves and the dwarves were all completely healed.

“This time, we will cut down anything comes up. We’ll proceed with that intent in mind. Cathy, Kefin, please lead the way.”

『Yes!』

Thus, we aimed for the cave entrance and begin moving.

“There are still monsters here and there huh.”

“But, it’s only a handful nya.”

As the 2 people walking in front exterminated the monsters, they retraced the path we came from.

Along the way, I didn’t forget to retrieve the Object X placed at the branching paths.

The dwarves and King Rockwell were roused and they were following at the tail end of the group.

“The dwarves should be able to defend if this is all that is left right?”

” ... I guess so.”

King Rockwell maintained his solemn expression and was taciturn.

“However, it looks like it would take a considerable amount of time to dispose of this amount of ant carcasses.”

“Yes. It would be fine to leave it to Paula and Rician regarding the magic stones. Also, won’t the people in Rockford be delighted if we offer them the monsters carcasses?”

“That’s a great idea, Lionel. Well, even if we hold on to the magic stones and carcasses, in terms of utilizing them, it’s both

impossible and unnecessary.”

“Yeah. Rather than holding on to them, it’s better to earn the gratitude of the receiving party and should be a more practical way of using it.”

“These magic stones can be used as reserve funds for the former slaves as well though ...”

“Besides, as long as Grand-dono and the others are safe, right?”

While feeling myself naturally tighten the grip I have on the illusionary cane in my hand, we continued to hurry back to the Dwarf Kingdom.

The scene we saw after we exited from the passage was the same cozy atmosphere we saw before we departed.

Moreover, a couple of the dwarves noticed us and looking at their appearance of letting everyone else know that we have returned, I was honestly relieved that I could put an end to my needless worries.

I found Grand-san and approached to speak to him.

“Grand-san, so you’re safe.”

“Yeah. Nothing happened here ... or rather, we were safe since

the monsters retreated back into the cave.”

“I see. That’s great but ... Guraios and the others didn’t pass by here?”

“Nope, they didn’t?”

His expression didn’t look like he was lying and Lionel and Cathy shook their heads as well.

“It’s fine if that’s the case. We’ve defeated the queen that gives birth to the ants. Furthermore, we defeated a considerable amount of ants there so once the soldiers from the Dwarf Kingdom defeat the remaining ant monsters, the threat should be completely gone.”

“That’s amazing! Then, are you intending to return to Rockford immediately?”

“I very much wish to do so but treating the injured and getting our treasure takes priority.”

“If there are injured people, I’d like it if you prioritize them first.”

“Yeah.”

I grinned while Grand-san gave a bitter smile.

Perhaps thanks to the emergency food provision, I heard words of gratitude from all sides when we moved to the Dwarf King's abode.

I found out that the ant monsters also retreated from the remaining 2 caves so I was relieved that it did not fall into the scenario that I was worried about.

When we arrived at the Dwarf King's abode, King Rockwell walked ahead until the center of the audience hall, stopped, turned around and prostrated on the ground.

“Luciel-dono, please treat Aresurei's arms. I beg of you!”

Although I've treated him to the extent that he would not die, the current Aresurei was in a condition where he did not have both his arms so I could understand where he was coming from.

However, no matter what, I can't imagine forming a good relationship with them if Aresurei succeeds this country.

” ... Why do you go so far for him? Forgive my rudeness but isn't it better for the sake of the Dwarf Kingdom if a person with high ability and clear character is placed as king?”

“It's a problem prior to the talk about becoming a king or not. He may be an idiotic son but Aresurei is my only heir left. It has no relation to the king's position.”

“Then, when do you intend to entrust the king’s position to him?”

” ... After I entrust my whole body and soul to make him a respectable king. If I deem that he does not have the qualification before I pass away, I vow to the Spirits and Gods that I will concede the king’s position to another.”

” ... Are you serious?”

He was speaking of casting aside the king’s position.

Furthermore, to wager the country’s future, just how does he intend to support Aresurei?

“I have caused such trouble to Luciel-dono and the citizens. It is not something that can be forgiven so easily.”

I saw that his appearance didn’t look like he was lying and I decided to acknowledge it.

Of course, with conditions.

“Very well. Spirits, are you listening?”

” ... Looks like they would not turn up.”

“Is there some trick set up?”

“No, if there was ...”

King Rockwell didn't say any further.

But, I noticed his intent.

“Apart from Lionel, Cathy, and Kefin, everyone else are to return to the slave room. Including Estia and the ones related to the church. This is an order.”

I was expecting objections but they obediently ... only Estia didn't move.

“Hurry up and go nya. Or do you have something to say nya?”

” ... No.”

I stopped Estia as she was about to leave.

” ... Estia, leave the magic tool and equipment behind before leaving the room.”

” ... Understood.”

She left the flashlight, sword, and shield there and exited the room.

Then, King Rockwell made an earth door and made sure nobody could infiltrate.

“Earth Spirit-samas, it’s fine if you don’t show your appearance. Please at least let us hear your voice.”

The moment King Rockwell spoke, the Spirits appeared and began speaking.

《Who was that?》(TL: There’s no indication of gender)

《It was as if it was a shadow.》

《I could sense nothing but the creeps from it.》

《Muscle-brain, Goofy face, that was our natural enemy.》

《Is it alright for us to note the vow you did earlier?》

《Even though the threat to the earth is gone, to think it would be accompanied by a threat to us.》

“I have something I wish to ask. Why did you all not notice the change that was happening to Guraaios? It should be possible that it

aroused the attention of Spirits right?”

” ... Is it related to why Spirit-samas didn’t turn up recently?”

King Rockwell interrupted after me.

《It’s not my interest to be manipulated.》

《I took note of Guraios countless times.》

《It approached without us noticing.》

《That is dangerous you know. You should kill it before it gets out of hand.》

《Lately, because of that, we’ve been afraid of manifesting.》

《That thing swallows us.》

“Who are you referring to?”

King Rockwell asked for its name but it can only be one person.

” ... It should be Estia.”

When I said that, Lionel asked.

” ... Luciel-sama, who is this Estia you speak of?”

“I’ve not heard of that name nya.”

“Was she among the former slaves?”

“Why are you all playing dumb with a straight face? She’s the Spirit Magic Swordswoman that came along with us to defeat the queen ant.”

However, they replied with different reactions from what I had expected.

“Didn’t we plunge in with only the 5 people here?”

“That’s right nya. Did Luciel-sama see that in your dream nya?”

“Maybe you should take a nap if you are tired?”

The 3 of them ... King Rockwell was also making a strange face so it looked like the 4 of them totally did not remember.

Did something like a memory rewrite happen?

“Spirits, what’s the meaning of this?”

《Lapse of memory.》

《Illusion?》

《Darkness-chan's power.》

《It seems like Goofy face possesses power and blessing that counteracts it so it wasn't effective against you.》

《Then it's thanks to us so we're fine with honey or magical power as payment.》

《It's strong so I advise you to be careful.》

“But, didn't you Spirits manifest once at the slave's rest area?”

《That was because we didn't notice that it had become a slave.》

《The pressure that was released when you dispelled it's slave seal was dangerous.》

《It was as if my body was being pulled by it.》

《I'd prefer not to approach it ever again.》

《Be careful and give us honey and magical power again next time.》

«It's also aiming for your life so be careful.»

The Spirits disappeared while leaving ominous words.

King Rockwell gave a look as if words of the Spirits were unbelievable but he immediately decided to believe it.

“I don't know which one is it among the former slaves but it should be the enemy of my soon ... I will take the responsibility to deal with it.”

He looked like he was fired up.

As I relayed the conversation I had with the Spirits to Lionel and the others as well as retell the whole battle with the queen ants, I noticed that the 3 of them felt like there was something out of place.

“To think that we had fallen into a spell without noticing ...”

“Darkness spirits are scary nya.”

“Rather than an illusion, maybe it is more like telepathy?”

While the 3 of them all were feeling depressed, they looked like they were thinking of strategies to not get caught in it.

I once again relayed that to Pope-sama with the magic communication bead and verified if those 5 really belong to the church.

After I made contact and conveyed the information, I was told that it would be investigated and also that the case with the Empire was not drawing near for the time being.

After ending the communication, I made my move.

“King Rockwell, as promised, you have kept your promise but ... first, please remove the earth wall after checking if Estia is not there.”

“Understood.”

King Rockwell nodded and the earth wall collapsed.

“We’ll first force Estia until she is unable to fight. We’ll interrogate her after that.”

『Yes!』

I had considered if she was my fated partner chosen by the Spirits so I was slightly hurt.

It’s true that they did not mention that Estia was my fated

partner but for that reason, I was blaming myself for trying to look cool when interacting with her as we moved to the slave resting area.

When we entered the slave resting area, there was no sign of Estia.

I supplemented with investigating if there were unfamiliar faces among them but there weren't any changes apart from the absence of Estia.

" ... Did she notice that her suggestions were not working on me?"

With no choice, I headed toward where Aresurei was and applied 「Extra Heal」 after clearing the room of others.

After confirming that Aresurei had regrown his arms, King Rockwell thanked me.

"No need to thank me. At a later date, Dolan will be coming here so please apologize and pass him the contents of the treasury at that time."

"I understand. So, are you returning immediately?"

"I very much wish to do so but I have to discuss the treatment of the people I removed from slavery and speak with Grand-san once to think of equipment to counter Estia's ability."

“Understood. So you’re going to take the former slaves but what do you intend to do?”

” ... I don’t want to bring the former slaves along with me to Rockford. Therefore, could I leave them here for the time being?”

“Are you sure that’s a good decision?”

“Yeah. There shouldn’t be any problems as they can earn their living expenses by suitably defeating the remaining ant monsters here. I will come pick them up as soon as possible.”

” ... Understood. I’ll obey your order.”

King Rockwell acknowledged and we once again moved to the slave’s rest area.

Then, when I contrived an explanation of having to prepare carriages and money, there were some who wished to quickly go out to the surface so I left it up to themselves.

“As long as you pledge to not trouble the dwarves or us, you can freely leave.”

Just by saying that, several people pledged and left the room.

“I leave the meals of the remaining people to you.”

“I know.”

We parted with King Rockwell there and Grand-san was waiting when we left the King’s abode.

“Why didn’t you come in?”

“This is my hometown so there were many things that I was feeling nostalgic about.”

“I see ... well then, let’s head back to Rockford.”

“Yes.”

Thus, we were on our return journey from the Dwarf Kingdom to Rockford.

Author’s note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 121: Estia's Past

We exited from the cave leading to the Dwarf Kingdom and the vicinity became completely bright and sunny.

“And so, why are you laying in ambush?”

Estia was at the entrance to the cave.

” ... Do you know me!?”

“Estia right? I suspect “Thank god~” you?!” (TL: Estia interrupted him mid sentence)

Estia began to cry loudly.

” ... Luciel-sama, is this person the Estia you spoke of?”

” ... She's only a girl nya.”

” ... Did we originally know her as well?”

As expected, Lionel and the others did not remember anything about Estia at all.

Leaving that aside, couldn't she have escaped without others noticing when she became a slave? It only served to deepen my

suspicion toward Estia.

However, she's crying and staying behind ... no, crying can be an act too so I can't ease my attention ... I began speaking with that thought in mind.

"She's Estia without a doubt. Estia, crying will not clear the suspicion on you. Why weren't you together with the former slaves in the slave's resting area?"

"By manifesting the Darkness Spirit's power after a long time, everyone forgot about me ..."

"So?"

"Darkness Spirit-san was angered and tried to attack everyone so I left the place."

"What did the Darkness Spirit do?"

"Inside the cave? It can't appear unless it becomes night time."

Sounds plausible ... but, it's way too dangerous and there's not a single merit to bring her along to Rockford.

"Well, since you're no longer a slave, do your best and live."

“Please help me.”

Estia’s expression was as if she was seriously at her wit’s end.

I decided that there might be a chance that I would be cursed if I leave it be so I decided to listen for now.

” ... The other ... the Earth Spirits said that they are afraid of Estia. Could you explain why?”

Mentioning that the Spirits were afraid of Estia ... the instant I said that, her body trembled, she gave a surprised expression, and she once again began crying.

“Even though I just want to get along well with Spirit-sans ... ”

Her excuse was that apparently, she does not want to manipulate the Spirits.

However, when she senses danger towards herself, she will unconsciously borrow power from Spirits but the actual fact is that she snatches the Spirits’ power without permission huh.

” ... If that’s true then you are quite a dangerous existence.”

” ”

She stiffened as she continued casting her eyes downward.

“If you request of the Darkness Spirit, can’t you train so that you won’t steal the powers?”

” ... I was told that when the time comes, I will be able to control it.”

“Told by the spirits?”

“No, by the person who raised me. Darkness Spirit-san gives a sad expression whenever I talk about that ...”

Is it normal to not be able to control it? Or maybe ... the person who raised her huh.

It would be Instructor Broad in my case.

If she’s a reincarnated individual, I’m curious as to where she learnt that combat technique from.

“Estia’s age?”

“I’ve turned 17.”

... Eh? Did I misread it?

” ... When did you become able to see and speak to Spirits?”

“When I was a child ... in the past, I had a body that was so weak that it would not be strange if I died anytime.

And even now, I can still somewhat remember the time I was sold ... when my parent told me to go to a place where I can get treatment.

I was forced to drink various medicine that was said to be for an experiment, forced to swing the sword even when I had a fever and I was always full of bruises.

Furthermore, I was always lonely.

That continued for a couple of years before one day, I became able to see Darkness Spirit-san.

After that, my body’s condition became better.”

... Meaning she summoned the Spirits herself? Or was it that she originally had the talent? Or is it the effect of the medicine she was forced to drink ... eh? I directly asked the question that was on my mind.

“Even though you were sold as a slave, isn’t it strange to be caught as a slave again?”

“Because I was released from slavery once.”

” ... You sure get released often.”

“That time, I was surprised when it was easily done when I wished to be released from slavery but it seemed that it was done by Darkness Spirit-san.”

” ... It’s been on my mind the whole time, did you use a memory lapse magic when you left the king’s audience? To not leave a trace of it behind ... furthermore, why didn’t the Earth Spirits notice the Darkness Spirit’s presence?”

” ... That’s because of the price of the power?”

“Price?”

Estia made a gloomy face and continued.

“At the place we fought with the queen ant, my defence instinct flared and I ended up using Spirit-san’s power.

Because I snatched the Spirit-sans life magical power, other than Darkness Spirit-san which is my contracted spirit, the others were resting to regain their power.

Conversely, Darkness Spirit-san became healthy and ended up causing a concealment effect to trickle down to the surroundings.

To explain the price in an easy-to-understand manner, originally, at the time everyone left the cave, I was supposed to disappear from everyone's memories.

For some reason, it could not interfere with Luciel-sama's memories."

Those eyes didn't look like they were lying.

But, I was unable to measure the trust I have in her.

If there isn't a threat, there's the choice of bringing her along to Rockford. However, I could not trust her to that extent.

"I cannot determine if the Darkness Spirit that wanted to save Estia acted wildly or that Estia unconsciously acted wildly.

In a world where there isn't an exchange of life, it might be alright to think that it's fine. But, in this world, I can't immediately bring you along."

"... I guess you're right. Since you did release me from slavery ... I am thankful for that alone."

Looking at the forced smile made by Estia, I ended up being distressed about whether my decision was the right one.

I'll postpone thinking about the right thing to do after getting my hands on more information.

"I will lend this sword and shield to you. Also, I will write to King Rockwell so that you will be able to wait in the Dwarf Kingdom so please wait there."

"Eh?"

"I don't intend to do something as thoughtless as abandoning a person who can't even cook."

"Thank you. Thank you."

As Estia conveyed her thanks to me, I took out a parchment from my magic bag and wrote a letter to King Rockwell.

While I wrote the letter, I thought, if the measure and the mindset of spirits differ, won't we be able to understand the Spirit's way of thinking slightly through Estia?

While thinking of her merit if I bring her along, I made it so that we would meet again.

"I plan to return to this land 10 days later. It's alright if you properly live in the Dwarf Kingdom until then."

"Understood. I look forward to meeting you again."

Taking out Fornoir and the others using the Key of the Hermit, when we were about to set off for Rockford, Fornoir approached Estia from the front.

“Wha, what’s wrong?”

Estia asked bewilderedly.

“What’s wrong Fornoir?”

Fornoir ignored my question as she stopped in front of Estia and looked into her face.

After a dozen of seconds, Estia curtsied.

After that, Fornoir calmly walked back to me but ... (TL: Holy sh*t even his horse is OP lol)

“Did you do something?”

“Burururu.”

Fornoir merely shook her neck.

However, Estia was different.

She continued to simply stare at Fornoir as if she was released from her inner demons.

When Lionel straddled his horse, Cathy and the others boarded the carriage and finished their preparation to set off, and I also hopped onto Fornoir, I called out to Estia.

“If you can speak with the Darkness Spirit, it would be better to properly convey how painful it is to you for memories of you to be lost from those around you. There’s probably a large difference between the way of thinking of Spirits and human.”

” ... Understood. I will try asking Darkness Spirit-san.”

“See you.”

“Be careful.”

While being seen off by Estia, we departed for Rockford.

A couple of minutes after departing, Lionel spoke before me.

“That girl was most likely from the Elimasia Empire.”

“Why do you think so?”

“There’s a possibility that she fell ill when she was a child due to

a hidden job aptitude that was not suitable for her body.”

” ... Just a possibility right?”

“Currently, the Empire still collects such children to turn them into the Empire soldiers.”

” ... Why?”

“Publicly, they claim to treat them but in reality, by turning them into Empire soldiers, they cause them to arouse a sense of resentment toward the other countries they were brought from.”

“You mean by brain-washing?”

“Yes. Because while they are young, they would not realise that they are being brain-washed.”

” ... Previously, I’ve heard of similar stories in Meratoni but ...”

Botacyl’s daughter’s situation felt that way.

Thinking about that ... what happens to the slaves sold to the Empire?

“Incidentally, what’s the fate of the adult slaves from the other countries sold to the Empire?”

“I can’t generalise all of them but they may flow from country to country, be bought as pets or for children’s training ... there are also rumours of human experimentations.”

“There’s also cases like Lionel’s betrayal right?”

” ... Yeah, that is true. The darkness in the Empire is more deeply-rooted that you can imagine.”

“However, why do they take in sickly children just based on a possibility?”

” ... It’s because the Emperor of the Elimasia Empire had the same circumstances. His weak body drastically changed once he reached adulthood and due to the special job he possessed, he climbed up to the seat of emperor all at one go.”

” ... And what’s the result in the end?”

“I don’t know the exact details but I heard that it gave decent results. If they do not obtain special jobs or advance jobs, I heard that they would once again be sold to other countries ...”

Would they really sell them after they’ve paid so much money to treat them and nurture them?

I decided that I would try asking Estia the next time I met her if I

have the chance even though I'm unsure if she would answer.



Author's Note:

Thank you for reading

Chapter 122: Future Dreams And Goals

Upon entering the entrance of Rockford, the fake city, I received the scouting report from Cathy that there weren't any irregularities so we entered the interior.

“It would be great if this location wasn't harmed ...”

Lionel said apprehensively but Rockford was completely fine.

That is if not for the traces of destruction in the center of the town, but there wasn't any location where land subsidence occurred.

We could confirm that Paula's golem was moving about in the central square. We moved towards there while feeling relieved.

However, we came upon the situation where there were a large amount of ant corpses remaining in the central square and there was intense fighting due to multiple newly opened holes.

“Everyone, are you alright? We've returned. If there are any injured, I'll heal them immediately.”

The moment I called out from outside the square, the 5-meter class golem disappeared and Paula collapsed.

“Paula!?”

Before we could rush over, Dolan supported Paula.

“We’re saved. Luciel-sama, please help us plug the holes.”

Dolan looked over and conveyed his request.

It was obvious that it would be better to close up the holes since the central square was clearly riddled with holes so I immediately helped.

“Alright then, Lionel and others will exterminate the monsters coming out from the hole. Grand-san, could you cooperate with Dolan to bury the holes together?”

『Yes!』

Grand-san sought permission for the use of the magic stones.

“Luciel-dono, would it be alright if we used the magic stones?”

“Yes. Since it doesn’t appear that it would cost that many, the stones from that mountain-like pile of ants ... no, I acknowledge the use of the magic stones we extracted from the ant monsters we had collected.”

“Understood.”

The filling of the holes didn't take that much time but perhaps it was because of the fatigue accumulated from defending overnight, it felt like Rician and Dolan, as well as the people participating in the battle in the city were trying their best to remain afoot.

“We will take over this situation so everyone please return home for now, have your meals and rest. Please sound out if there are any wounded individuals.”

After I announced that, a couple of people came over to request for treatment of injuries while the others conveyed their thanks and returned to their respective workshops.

“Dolan, what about your meals?”

“I ate the meal you left for me so I'm alright.”

“I see. What about Toretto-san?”

“Toretto does not have a combat profession so he's disassembling the monsters.”

He's most likely extracting magic stones or converting them into items that can be used for protective gear.

“Understood. Please take your time to rest.”

Dolan bowed and returned to his workshop while giving a piggyback ride to Paula.

Rician also left following them.

“Grand-san, please do the measurements for Lionel and the other’s weapons and armors.”

“Luciel-dono is not returning?”

“Yes. I wish to remain here for a while longer to organize my thoughts before returning. Lionel, Cathy and Kefin, you guys can go back as well.”

Grand-san nodded in acknowledgement and chased after Dolan but the 3 others had a discussion and it appeared that it was decided that Lionel would remain by my side.

After watching Cathy and Kefin head toward Dolan’s workshop, Lionel spoke to me first.

“We don’t think that you would fall into a hole again but just in case.”

” ... I didn’t take into consideration such a thing though ...”

I thought that I would be fine on my own but I felt embarrassed the moment I said that so I turned my gaze to the square.

“It is natural for a person of Luciel-sama’s position to have a retainer by his side. You have to get used to it someday.”

“Is that so ... but I can’t really accustom myself to it.”

“You’ll get used to it once 10 years passes.”

Ten years is a long time and it was hard just trying to think about it.

Was it egotistical of me to think that I would have dispelled Lionel and Cathy’s slave contract by then and properly have them as my retinue?

While viewing the square, I talked to Lionel about our plans hereafter.

“I’ll ask since this is the opportunity to do so. There might come a time where we have to go to the Empire but would you be alright?”

” ... If I would still be in the form of a slave, I believe I would be able to control my feelings. However, if my slave contract is dispelled, to be honest, I find it difficult to answer.”

” ... I see. The plan hereafter would be to bring along Dolan to the Dwarf Kingdom and after that, go to the Meratoni town.

Depending on the situation, I think I'll have to consider going to Saint Schull's church but the problem would be what comes after that."

"Is Luciel-sama able to decide on your own where you would like to go?"

"Yeah, tentatively if nothing crops up. For me, it would be the Independent Magic City Nelldal? I'd like to try going there. I might become capable of using magic and isn't a country floating in mid air amazing?"

"I see. However, if I am correct, the only way to enter that country would be to either ride on the dragon cages of the Empire, climb up the labyrinths in the Labyrinth Nation Grandol or request of the representatives of each country for an invitation from Nelldal right?"

"Really?"

"Yeah. I've never been there before but I've heard of that a long time ago."

"I see. Well, I plan to spend a couple of months in Meratoni assembling everybody's equipment. And return to the basics for a while and get trained by Instructor Broad. Furthermore, I'd like to see the battle between Lionel and Instructor Broad."

"It feels like it would be endlessly enjoyable with Luciel-sama

around.”

Lionel was rejoicing with his eyes shining.

“And so, for Estia’s case, do you really not remember anything?”

” ... Rather than having lost my memory, it feels more like my memory was diluted.”

“To what extent?”

“As if it was something I heard or didn’t heard of a couple of years ago, like having a vague recollection of it.”

“Did you recall when we met her outside?”

“I felt that I would not have recognized her if I did not look carefully.”

“More of forgetting instead of an illusion or hallucination huh?”

“I felt that there were recognition inhibition and concealment effects intermixed. Because it closely resembles Kefin’s Ninjutsu, I think that I might not forget if I get used to it ...”

“I see ... what do you think about her?”

” ... If she is an Empire infiltrator, it is plausible that she entered by becoming a slave. However, by managing a person that they can’t recognize, she would not arouse the suspicion of being related to the Empire.”

“It’d be good if we are able to see through her acting but since it involves Spirits, it is unnecessarily bad.”

“It’s true that I don’t see her as a bad person so I won’t stop you if you make her your retainer but vigilance would be necessary in that case.”

” ... It’s not my own intuition but it’s a mystery why Fornoir didn’t harbor any hostility toward her.”

“Luciel-sama’s horse?”

“Yeah. I’ve heard that animals are multiple times more intuitive compared to humans.

I’ve heard that human’s intuition is decided by their memories but animal’s intuition comes from survival instinct.

Fornoir approached on her own without disliking it. I think that it might be because she didn’t feel any malicious intent.”

“How great would it be if we had a magic tool to speak with animals.”

“To the extent that I would like to seriously have it constructed.”

Just like that, we conversed about various topics, had some light bouts after that and performed some magical power manipulation to kill time.

“This time, we should be able to extract a considerable amount of magic stones from the monster corpses we collected. I wish to use those to aim for the completion of that. The priority would go to the equipment first but I’d like Dolan to decide on what to proceed on after that.”

“Understood. Paula will consolidate the magic stones while Rician will assign attributes to the magic stone.”

” ... Alright ...”

“Then, once we’re done, can we develop new items?”

“Of course. I’ll be helping with the dismantling from tomorrow onward since it seems like it would be a considerable amount of magic stones and will be immense work but work hard.”

Grand-san was surprised when I said that but I ignored it as I made dinner and mandated that everyone go to bed earlier today.

After dinner, I returned to my room and conveyed the facts I

newly discovered to the Pope-sama through the magic communication bead.

《... We have not been able to confirm the records. But, I would like you to bring Estia along to Saint Schull's church headquarters.》

“I think that won't be a problem but would it be alright?”

《You've already dispelled the slave crest right? Moreover, since Fornoir didn't exhibit any hostility, there won't be any problems ... and I am curious as well.》

“Understood. I'll return to the church headquarters temporarily before I go to Meratoni.”

《I think that it'll be troublesome but please do so.》

“Yes!”

I ended with my reply and cut the communication.

All the darkness is connected to the Empire.

It didn't seem like Lionel is particularly bothered about going there and it's not like we're going there this instant.

We'll have to meet with Estia once more in order to find out more about the details.

Just as I had thought that I was over with it in Ienith, I was embroiled in the Dwarf Kingdom incident, I sure am short of luck lately. It's not to the extent of suffering mentally but I do want to have the occasional opportunity to relax ...

I'm tangled up with the Evil God due to the dragon seals, the Spirits are moving about freely and uncontrolled, and I'm swayed by my retinue's feelings ...

While feeling disappointed that although the blessings have a meaning in some manner, it had resulted in the narrowing my choices, I practiced my routine magical power manipulation and continuous chanting before going to sleep.

The next day onward, everyone was planned to carry out their assigned work be it monster dismantling and magic stone extraction or other work but it also became that Toretto-san would be helping to dismantle.

"To think that Toretto-san would finish dismantling a whole body at the same speed as me extracting a single magic stone, I've lost confidence in many different ways."

Toretto-san laughed and replied to my wry smile.

"There's no way I would lose to Luciel-kun who's a novice

fledgling to a work that I have done countless times since I was young. If you ever exceed me in this work, I'll transcend you in sex."

" ... I'm alright with not exceeding. I apologize. Please forgive me. Well then, let's get to work."

My mental strength was completely destroyed and I replied monotonously while concentrating on the dismantling work.

I was thanked by everyone as I applied purification magic to the dismantling grounds every 30 minutes. Thus, I preoccupied myself with the dismantling work.

While carrying on with the dismantling work, I realised something.

"Rician is capable of using Spirit magic right?"

"Yes. My specialty is Wind Spirit magic."

" ... Incidentally, what happens if you use Earth Spirit magic?"

"I've never tried it before. But, it should rob me of a considerable amount of magical power. The amount of magical power used depends on the compatibility with the Spirits."

"I see. By the way, are you able to use Light Spirit magic as well?"

“If you tell me the spell image, I believe I will be able to use it. Since the magic stone attribute bestowal I’m doing now is done by requesting the Spirits after all.”

If that’s the case, it’s no wonder Estia’s magical power was depleted at one go just by using healing magic via Light Spirit magic.

“If Paula and Rician are assembled together, would there be nothing you 2 won’t be able to bestow?”

“There’s no way it would be so convenient. Light and Darkness can’t be done even with a significant amount of magical power, so depending on the case, items might be required for the bestowal of attributes. Something like Holy Water would be required for Darkness magic stones.”

“That sure is troublesome.”

“Yes. That is why I very much look up to Sir Rainstar. To him who possess the aptitude to every attribute, the thought that he would be able to create various kinds of magic stone makes me envious.”

“I see.”

“If it’s Luciel-chan, he’s definitely going to become the Philosopher someday. Why don’t we develop various things

together when that time comes?” (Toretto)

“Luciel, I won’t mind getting married to you if that day comes.”
(Rician)

“That’s a good idea. I’ll be a candidate too.” (Paula)

“Paula and Rician sure prioritise worldly desires.” (Toretto)

I could only laugh to that.

While inserting in intervals for meal breaks and tea breaks, the dismantling work continued for a long time.

” ... It sure is hard doing this the whole day.”

“It won’t be easy no matter what job it is.”

“With setbacks, patience, and effort, you’ll finally reach the starting point.”

“Even though it’s not something I like, it isn’t something I can’t do. But, even with the talent, without pride and the passion for creating new things, you won’t last long.”

In my situation, it would be magic practice? Or ... if it is something that I seriously dedicated myself to ... then it would be

the 2 years I spent in Meratoni.

Now that I think about it, I couldn't even afford the time to think during that 2 years time ...

If I was not called to the headquarters, I wonder what would I have become?

“For Luciel it would be helping others?”

Paula asked without batting an eyelid but I could not answer immediately.

The reason was because I realised that it didn't feel like myself.

” ... I worked hard and desperately trained in martial arts and Holy attribute magic because I didn't want to die. Lately, I've been thinking that I want to help if there is a life to be helped but it's not like I'm thinking of saving everyone.”

“It's natural for you to be uncertain at your age. It's not to the extent of Luciel-chan but even for me, with my legendary lineage, I have been troubled for decades as to whether to continue down the road of manufacturing or to utilize this technique I have to start new ideas, even now, I'm still mulling over it.”

Even though Toretto-san has been carrying such a burden, he always doesn't look like he's troubled.

Nevertheless, to have been troubled for a few decades means, if he is the same as the racoon dog beastman Warabis-san ...

Even without saying anything, I felt like I would have to be prepared to lose something important if I say any further so I switched my thoughts as Paula began talking.

“Magic engineer. My goal is to reach magic tool production level X. The next goal would be to create something better than Master Toretto.”

“Me too, as a pioneer, my goal is to develop new magic tools.”

After Paula, Rician answered proudly as well.

... Because the 2 of them have goals, they are able to push forward?

Why is it that I feel a sense of jealousy when I look at them?

Because they have a goal? Or because they understood it themselves?

“My goal ... huh.”

“Isn’t Luciel-chan’s goal to create a peaceful nation or to make a world where nobody gets hurt?”

“To discover talents?”

“Isn’t it world reformation?”

“Every one of you, I don’t have such lofty aspirations. I only want to not face any danger to my life and devote myself to something ... medicine or magic tool creation may be interesting.”

“You’re still young so it’s fine if you try out various things. However, everything starts out sweet but it’s a fact that most will turn out arduous so you shouldn’t give up okay.”

So even if I think it’s going well, in the end, I would hit a wall but the point lies in what I do when that time comes.

Goals and dreams huh ...

“Luciel as a disciple ... interesting.”

“If it’s Luciel-san, he’ll definitely get tons of magic stones ...”

The 2 of them were once again overflowing with worldly desires.

“That’s right. It’s a bit pitiful to only have dying of old age as my long-term goal.”

After I said that, the instant I thought that Toretto-san disappeared, I was suddenly hugged.

“To think that you were so ill. From now on, come into my world ...”

I had goosebumps all over my body together with the chills but Paula and Rician helped me.

“I will not hand over Luciel.”

“Please don’t entice Luciel-san down your path. Master Toretto will just end up forming a suspicious group.”

“Oh dear, then what would the 2 of you do?”

“I will work hard to develop magic tools until I die.”

“The human race’s lifespan is short so I will be together with Luciel-san until he dies of old age. Since my rival buddy is here as well.”

If somebody else hears that, it would be heard as a reverse marriage proposal though.

“Thank you. For now, I’ll try to think of mid-term goals and dreams.”

It was a full 3 days after before we finished dismantling the enormous amount of ants.

From the next day onward, I began training in parallel magic circle chants.

I would like to quickly set my mid-term goals but I felt that it was likely that I would be confronted by something that I won't be able to recover from if I continue to postpone what I lack.

After Lionel and Cathy's measurements were over and laughing when Toretto-san drew closer to Kefin during his measurement, 10 days passed in the blink of an eye.

“Well then, we'll be departing now, everyone okay?”

“Yes.”

Dolan was nervous.

Well, it's natural since he'll be meeting King Rockwell.

“But, are you really going to come along?”

“If grandpa is going along then of course!!”

“To observe the enemy's intentions!”

Most likely he's the enemy because he caused them to become slaves.

Even so, it's really good that these 2 people really get along well.

The 2 of them could establish a relationship most likely because Dolan accepted the elf Rician.

"I've received a new idea as well so I'll keep watch over the workshop."

Toretto-san smiled and made a wink but the target was not me but Lionel, causing Cathy to puff up and bare her wariness.

"It will take roughly about 3 months to complete the equipment for the 3 of them. I'll return the extra ores."

"But didn't you say that you needed the ores?"

"I remembered something important due to the incident this time. After I finish creating the armors, I plan to head to the mine."

"Elder Brother Grand."

"There's somewhat too many fetters if I work at Luciel-dono's place like Dolan. Once you all have tidied up everything, will you

all be returning?”

“If Grand-san wants to work together, we can purchase a wide piece of land in Ienith and it might be interesting to build a new town.”

“Oh dear, if that’s the case I would also join in. Creating a new town sure makes one tension rise up high fo~.”

“Ten years or more later ... it might be a conversation much further in the future but would it be alright to have such a dream?

If we would be able to create a haven similar to this Rockford where I won’t encounter much interference, I feel like I might be able to somehow work hard for it.”

Everyone laughed as they gave their approval.

My heart was feeling lighter for some reason after such a long time and while thanking everyone, I aimed to someday actually realise that dream as we head toward the Dwarf Kingdom from Rockford.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 123: Dwarf Kingdom And Sir Rainstar

Monsters didn't appear at all even until we reached the Dwarf Kingdom.

The monsters flying in the sky were too far away and for some reason there were no signs of attacks coming so we proceeded on after reaching the cave.

“There sure aren't any monsters.”

“Rather than because we defeated so many of them, that queen ant was most likely the reason after all.”

Nodding to Lionel's words, I shine the torchlight onto the dark cave passage and entered.

“Is it alright if we stop for a moment?”

Dolan stopped us just as we were on the verge of passing through the entrance to the Dwarf Kingdom.

“Are you not feeling well?”

” ... No, I'm just trembling. Until today, I still can't forget the incident that day where I ended up involving Paula.”

“Grandpa...”

Dolan stroked Paula’s head as he took a deep breath and hit his face.

“Thanks for waiting. Let’s go.”

When we reached the Dwarf Kingdom, the dwarves started an uproar when they saw us ... or rather when they saw Dolan and Paula.”

“You sure have remarkable popularity.”

“Because it’s a small country even though it’s called a kingdom.”

Dolan smiled while looking like he was feeling embarrassed.

We directly headed towards the King’s Abode where King Rockwell stayed.

“The previous time we were here, there wasn’t a reception as well but normally is that how it is?”

“We don’t have such formalities. King Rockwell claims that all of the dwarf race are brothers.”

“If that’s the case ...” As I was about to speak, Dolan spoke as if he knew what I wanted to say.

“The sword that I forged was something that would be a problem of responsibility to the Dwarf Kingdom. In order to avoid that, with heartrending grief, I was chosen to fulfill my responsibility by becoming a slave and they definitely made some more compensation in addition to that.” (TL: The situation that led to Dolan and Paula’s slavery was never clearly stated. My guess is that another kingdom (the Empire) requested of a sword from the Dwarf Kingdom and Dolan was chosen to make it. An earthquake occurred that collapsed Dolan’s workshop and he sacrificed his arms to save Paula so the sword could not be completed and was a failed product. To avoid trouble with the other kingdom, Dolan was sentenced to become a slave. Let me know in the comments if you have any other conjectures :D)

“Couldn’t the king use his power to pardon you?”

“No, he couldn’t, because we were relatives.”

“Ha?”

“King Rockwell’s father ... the previous generation king was my younger brother.

I had decided to go down the road of blacksmithing and left the house before I reached adulthood.

Then I wandered and continued to train together with elder brother Grand under a master.

After a while, I found out that my father died and my younger brother was to be the next king.”

“Then Dolan and Paula became part of the royal family?”

“That might have happened.”

Dolan nodded and said so while laughing.

As we walked down the passage, we heard a yell.

The yell came from the audience room.

“Was that King Rockwell’s voice?”

“The other party already ...”

Dolan opened the door to the audience room.

“I believe I gave the order to not let anyone enter ... Uncle Dolan?!”

“Even the bean pole Paula is here too?”

As if King Rockwell and Aresurei were not yelling at each other previously, they fixated on Dolan and Paula.

“I purchased the 2 of them from a slave dealer and as they have served me sufficiently, I have released them from slavery. Now, they work as my personnel-in-charge for magic tool development. Well then, King Rockwell. I leave it to you if you want to apologize or not. Dolan, you can speak as well if you have anything you want to say.”

“I don’t know about S-rank healers but aren’t you acting all high and mighty.”

Aresurei targeted and yelled at me but a figure came up from behind Aresurei and covered his mouth.

“You are noisy as always. You’re interfering with Uncle Rockwell and grandpa’s conversation.”

It was Paula’s golem that held down Aresurei.

“Paula-chan, thank you for the help. Uncle Dolan, it’s been a long time.”

“King Rockwell, due to my failure, I’ve caused you trouble that you would originally not need to suffer from. Sorry, I hope you understand.”

Dolan was the one who apologized.

“Uncle, I must apologize to you, I was the one who relied on you for that incident. Uncle, you don’t need to apologize. Furthermore, although Paula also personally asked to be sold together at that time, I should not have permitted it after all.”

“Because you sold me as well, we were together all the time.”

” ... I had believed that you were a heartless man when you sold Paula but it was the duty of the king of dwarves.

If you have feelings of repentance, discard something like that away.

Rockwell, as a king you should do what must be done.

However, if you personally still feel like apologizing, I accept that apology and forgive everything.”

” ... Uncle ... I am sincerely sorry for pushing everything onto you.”

King Rockwell was crying.

Aresurei looked like he could not believe his eyes.

Aresurei most likely lived his life without ever seeing Rockwell, a person with such arrogant attitude, cry.

That arrogant attitude must have gradually came to be to show the people around him his confidence as a king.

I wonder what would I have become if I had to face the same heavy pressure and have nobody to help in Ienith?

I would not likely be able to leave Ienith in a single year and it would have taken more time to rebuild the Healer's Guild.

Thinking about it that way, I felt sympathy towards King Rockwell.

He could not control his subordinates and sons, and although they've caused him trouble, the Dwarf Kingdom might have developed in a different path if Dolan and Grand-san were around ... I had such a thought.

“Uu ... u ... uu ... u”

Aresurei flailed his body trying to escape from the golem made by Paula. But, he could not escape.

” ... King Rockwell, I've roughly heard about the incident. If the heir has to be changed ... if after waiting for a couple of years and Aresurei does not change, I will approve of it as well. I will hold half of the responsibility.”

Dolan looked at Aresurei regretfully and announced.

” ... You think so too after all? Golem control is something that dwarves specialize in. To not be able to disassemble it ... monsters may come attacking again so I’m feeling uneasy.”

“Yeah. If Aresurei does not properly grow up 5 years later, it might be a good idea to hold a selection for the next heir to be the Dwarf King.”

“That may be our only choice.”

King Rockwell paid attention to Dolan as he spoke to him and stared at Aresurei.

“If that can’t be disassembled, then maybe I’m the queen?”

Paula tilted her head as she interrupted King Rockwell and Dolan’s conversation.

Aresurei had fainted from the lack of oxygen.

“Ha~ Pitiful. I’m also pathetic huh? Truthfully, the items inside the treasury have been somehow taken by Aresurei and the others so we’ve lost a lot of things. Uncle Dolan, I leave it up to you to decide what to bring out from there.”

“Dolan, instead of items of value, it is alright to only look for items that we seek, everything else is unnecessary if what we seek isn’t there.”

Leaving the fainted Aresurei there, we moved to the treasury.

The Dwarf Kingdom treasury was immediately after the door behind the throne.

“Are there no locking mechanisms?”

“Magical power recognition is required so normally it can’t be opened. Taking into assumption the unfortunate event that I die, Guraio and Aresurei were configured for recognition as well.”

Well, that might be the natural action.

When King Rockwell touched the door, similar to the doors to the sealed dragons, the door emitted light and a pattern was drawn onto it.

Then, the pattern shone with light in sync with the door opening.

“Who built this door?”

” ... The human hero Rainstar. The person who caused the decline of the Dwarf Kingdom.”

... That man has the ability to make a floating city in the sky so I'm convinced about the door but why is he said to have caused the decline of the Dwarf Kingdom?

I was curious about what Sir Rainstar did so I asked.

It's a story from more than 300 years in the past anyway.

"Did Sir Rainstar do something to the Dwarf Kingdom?"

"... Firstly, the place where Rockford stands was originally a mine. To defeat a heinous monster there, the magic Sir Rainstar released disintegrated the mine. At that time, the dwarves feared that they would be killed if they opposed him."

... Although there's the fake town, if it is a location where Sir Rainstar gouged a mountain, I can understand why the dwarves were frightened.

"... I understand that Sir Rainstar is a tremendous person but something of that extent won't cause a decline right?"

"After that, Sir Rainstar came to the Dwarf Kingdom and announced that he wished to form technology cooperation to create new items, by taking up the business segment where dwarves were bad at, he intended to spread the technology of the Dwarf Kingdom."

“I see. Manufacturing has been your specialty since the past but hospitality ... doesn’t seem present even today.”

“Then, Rainstar built Rockford and it became filled with vibrancy but Rockford gathered many researchers and developers, the dwarf race was no exception.”

” ... The decline was due to the outflow of engineers?”

” ... Unfortunately, in the literature records, it’s stated that the only dwarves left in this country were the insular dwarves. That is the reason why dwarves are so unsociable. Well then, please make your choice.”

“Dolan, anything is fine. Choose for yourself.”

Dolan nodded and entered the treasury.

Then, he immediately stiffened and turned his gaze to here ... or toward King Rockwell to be exact.

“Why, why is this here!”

“Because even if it was a failure, I felt that it still possess potential.”

King Rockwell nonchalantly answered Dolan’s muffled voice of anger.

Dolan took a single sword from the treasury.

Even though it was a single-handed sword, it was on the large side.

“Luciel-sama, is it alright ... if I take this from the treasury?”

” ... Judging from the contents of the conversation, that is the sword that you forged that time you became a slave?”

” ... Yes.”

“I see ... that ... if you can promise me that you will not be dragged down by your past, you can take that from the treasury. King Rockwell, is it alright if we receive that?”

“It is uncle’s request. There’s no reason for me to reject.”

“Thank you.”

I gave my permission and King Rockwell also smoothly gave his permission.

Previously, Grand-san mentioned that King Rockwell regretted converting Dolan and Paula into slaves.

Therefore, he carefully kept the failed sword in the treasury.

Wanting to change the mood slightly, I asked to meet with the former slaves including Estia.

“Well then, could you guide me to where the former slaves and Estia are?”

“Among the former slaves, there are those who are working as well as those who are guilty of crimes and have been confined though?”

What were they thinking to commit a crime in just 10 days?

“What were the crimes they committed?”

“Injuring people with magic and stealing other people’s property.”

“Even though they had pledged, aren’t they foolish to still commit crimes ... for now, I’ll listen to their story and if there is no saving them by talking, could I entrust them to you for the Dwarf Kingdom to deal with based on the law?”

“Are you sure?”

“Yeah, they would have died if I didn’t release them from slavery. Which was why I saved them but I did not save their lives

to allow them to commit crimes. Sorry but could I meet those who are guilty?”

“Understood. Then, follow me please.”

After closing the treasury door, King Rockwell began moving.

After I kept the sword Dolan took out from the treasury into my magic bag, we followed after King Rockwell.

At the audience hall, Aresurei was still asleep so King Rockwell grabbed him and we left the audience hall.

Immediately after walking down the corridor, we met with the dwarf attendants and King Rockwell entrusted Aresurei to them before opening the door next to the slave room. There was a staircase leading underground there.

“It’s here. It’s slightly smelly so please endure it.”

“I could purify it?”

“It’s not smelly by choice so if you can make the smell go away then thank you.”

“Alright.”

I descended down the steps while casting purification.

King Rockwell was walking ahead with Lionel following behind him and I had Cathy and Kefin to either side of me.

I don't know why we formed ranks without noticing but I was convinced that my retinue was excellent and as I continued applying purification, we came upon the cells.

I spoke to Dolan.

“The prison here sure look similar to the ones made in Ienith.”

“It's the same thing. Prisons are made to be sturdy. Prisons made by Paula are formed from magic tools and they are applied with magic seals that have the effect of lowering and causing the decline of the body's ability. But, these here are the original.”

“I see.”

I was glad that Dolan completely returned to normal by being able to interpose a small boast about Paula to me.

As we had that conversation, we finally reached the prison that held the criminals who committed crimes.

Looking at their faces, I noted that Estia was not there.

The ones there were those that were originally criminal slaves.

“Is the recidivism rate high here?” (TL: Recidivism refers to a person’s relapse into criminal behavior)

While muttering that, I spoke to them individually to be safe but after making them pledge to not distort the facts, faced with the punishment of plunging into the ant’s nest if they lied, they chose to remain silent.

They will most likely become slaves to the Dwarf Kingdom.

“Sorry for consuming your time. I will entrust them to King Rockwell. I would like to meet with the former slaves who did not commit any crimes next.”

“The criminals will be dropped into slavery though, are you alright with that?”

“Yeah. Even though I saved their lives, since they immediately returned to committing crimes within just 10 days ... currently, I completely do not have the ability to save them.”

While thinking that their future might have changed if I showed them a new path, I pondered ... if a day would come where I would be able to judge people.

Upon opening the door to the former slave resting area, there were 8 former slaves there.

“Former slaves, I apologize for the abruptness but please choose whether to continue working in the Dwarf Kingdom or to accompany us to the Holy City. After reaching the Holy City, I would not protect you but I will hand you 20 silver coins from the previous subjugation fee and relief fund I received. However, I will not provide any further assistance. I do not know what work there is in the Dwarf Kingdom but the contents of the past 10 days you all had would be your work.”

“Please bring me along.”

One person raised their hand and the number rapidly increased until 6 of the 8 people chose to travel to the Holy City.

“Then for the remaining 2, I believe King Rockwell will be responsible for providing you with your food and such so be at ease.”

I announced so while looking at King Rockwell and he nodded his agreement with a wry smile.

After that, the figures of Estia, the former slave healers, and the other former slaves appeared.

It seemed like they were told that I came together with Dolan and they all had smiles on their faces for some reason despite their light shortness of breath.

Then, I once again told them the conditions I mentioned earlier.

“Including Estia, there is a need to listen to the circumstances that lead to you 4 healers becoming slaves so I will have to forcibly bring you to the headquarters for the time being. Well then, what about the others?”

Surprisingly, half of the former slaves, 5 of them, raised their hands to continue working in the Dwarf Kingdom.

“King Rockwell, we may be former slaves but please treat us well.”

“Understood. I will treat you the same way I treat the dwarves.”

Then, Dolan spoke to King Rockwell.

“King Rockwell. For a long period of time, the Dwarf Kingdom has not mingled with the outside world. If you are considering interaction with the outside world, it may be good to do so with Ienith or the Saint Schull Allied Nations that Luciel-sama belongs to.”

“Uncle Dolan ... Luciel-dono, can I request that you be the middleman when that time comes?”

“As long as you swear to not correspond with arrogance.”

“That’s harsh.”

We peacefully finished fulfilling all our promises.

“I’ll bring along great alcohol the next time I come so please be properly hospitable then okay.”

“If your gift is firewater then I would gladly entertain you.”

I exchanged a firm handshake with King Rockwell and even despite the commotion this time around, I promised to visit the Dwarf Kingdom once again and departed together with the former slaves towards the Holy City.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

I had never dreamed that Rainstar would be feared by even the dwarves.

Chapter 124: Return To The Holy Capital

We were advancing quickly along the road to the Holy City/Holy Capital after leaving the Dwarf Kingdom.

I told Estia that instead of listening to the main points, I intend to listen to the whole story after reaching the Holy Capital.

Estia spent 10 days in the Dwarf Kingdom but since Lionel and the others did not forget Estia's face or name, we could not confirm the conjecture that the Darkness Spirits had manipulated their memories.

“Thank you for the letter. Once I passed it to the Dwarf King, I had ensured safety and was provided food without any suspicion placed onto me.”

She gratefully conveyed that with a smile.

During our breaks while on our journey ... we gathered the former slaves and we talked about various things.

While asking about their family structure, their favourite cooking, and the entry condition for the Magician's Guild, I obtained new knowledge and I asked about the chants that I most likely could already use.

” ... Why?”

Even though I have the magic aptitude for fire attribute, water attribute and earth attribute, the magic did not invoke even when I chant the Lv I magic.

Well, I had predicted that.

Similar to that time I learn Heal, my proficiency did not rise just by chanting. (TL: Need to chant, have a mental image, manipulate magical power and then cast the magic for the magic to be successful and the proficiency to rise)

” ... Can’t extract magical power? ... Proficiency doesn’t rise? Why?”

While desperately trying to endure the rising fear of the proficiency not rising by even 1 point, I continued the journey. (TL: Looks like Luciel still won’t be obtaining his all attribute magic cheat)

“The Saint Schull Allied Nations sure is safe.”

“So enviable nya.”

“Suitable amounts of monsters inhabit the area for food and it’s also good that the country is surrounded by forests filled with wild grasses and mountains.”

I somehow have a sense of deja vu from that conversation.

As I had that thought while proceeding down the path, I voiced my thoughts.

“Why weren’t there any villages around Rockford and the Dwarf Kingdom?”

“It goes without saying for cities but even for villages, permission from the country’s representative ... it would be the Pope in this Saint Schull Allied Nations, would be required.”

“It’s because of the problems of such rights that people can’t build them as they please nya.”

“What about the Empire that Lionel and Cathy were in?”

Lionel and Cathy seemed like they were knowledgeable with regard to the autonomy of the Empire so I tried asking.

“The Emperor and the Duke houses control the entirety of the Empire. The Marquis and Earl houses operate their respective territories while the factions of the Viscount and Baron houses manage the fine details of the territory.”

“In actuality, due to rapid expansion/development, the current situation is that they can’t manage the country nya.”

“The Empire is rapidly ensnaring people like Lionel-sama with

high aspirations in traps nya.”

The 2 of them lamented over the current Empire.

I knew that the interior of the Empire was rotten but I had not imagined that it was to such an extent.

“A time may come that you would have to tour the Empire but it seems wise to stay away for the time being.”

“Lionel, don’t say such scary things lightly ... it’s true that there are no plans to travel to the Empire for the time being but to think that there would be so many secret manoeuvres behind the scenes, I might indeed have to think of a few hands to cope with it.”

I can only see it as the Empire having an excellent strategist that is spreading around a ruse showing that their interior is rotten.

Since I don’t even know the state of affairs in the first place, it would be hard for me to know everything but I only wish to quietly live my life regardless of the country I’m in.

During sunset, I was conversing with Lionel and the others as we prepared our camp when Estia showed her face.

“Luciel-sama, could I help with anything?”

“No, it’s alright. Putting that aside, how’s the situation within

the carriage.”

“Because of its unimaginable wideness contrary to the external appearance and the virtual lack of swaying, my body isn’t sore at all.”

“I see, that’s great then.”

I ended the conversation like that but Estia didn’t look like she was about to leave.

“Is there anything else?”

” ... Erm, regarding the horse Luciel-sama rides ...”

“Why are you bringing up Fornoir here?”

Even though it’s a continuation of the conversation, I found it hard to understand the jump in topic when it seemed like Estia once again resolved herself and began talking.

“I sense an incredible power from that horse. Where did you get it?”

“Fornoir is a very excellent and friendly horse. Among the horses ridden by the Paladins, Fornoir was the only one that allowed me to properly ride her so I unreasonably asked Pope-sama to give her to me. Is there something that bothers you?”

” ... For some reason unknown to me, since the time that horse looked at me, I’ve not felt uneasy or rather, I feel like the feeling of loneliness has faded ...”

“I won’t cede Fornoir even if you ask okay. Partly because Pope-sama has entrusted her to me but more importantly, she is my partner.”

After I said that with a smile, I heard muffled laughter from behind me but it was something I wanted to say even if I’m laughed at so it didn’t bother me.

“I understand. Sorry for asking for the impossible. Also, what would happen to me after my hearing at the Holy Capital ends?”

“If you properly answer the questions regarding the kind of job a Spirit Magic Swordsman is and how you came about becoming a member of the Healer’s Guild as well as fully convey the circumstances that led to you becoming a slave, I believe it will be alright.”

“I see. Will Luciel-sama and everyone else stand witness?”

“That is up to the decision of Pope-sama. If nothing comes up, we have a town that we wish to travel to so we would be heading that way.”

“I see. Understood. I’ll tell that to everyone else.”

Estia returned to the circle of former slaves.

“I could see her anxiety.”

” ... Even though I’ve dispelled her slave contract, since she was brought up in the Empire, would it be possible for her to do something suspicious due to having had taken a pledge?”

“I can’t give you an affirmation nya. At the very least, there weren’t any who had taken pledges among Lionel-sama’s entourage nya.”

With Cathy’s input, I looked toward Lionel’s direction and asked him.

“Lionel was targeted by your subordinates after you investigated the case on human experimentations and slaves right?”

“Yes.”

“Do you know of any facilities that served to nurture weak-bodies children from young like Estia?”

“Just like how generals cannot fully grasp everything about their men, the Empire is not a monolithic state.

Not to mention the nobles, aiming for territories to enlarge their

own, they direct bandits to the area and cause it to fall into a den of thieves.

The work to obtain intelligence on who does what is something unusual.”

“They sure held that together well to be able to go to war.”

“During the time of war, if you can convert the land into gold and pay it to the government, the Emperor will recognize and confer peerage rank up to Earl rank. It is equivalent to being resourceful without having valour. Even the commoners have a chance to obtain peerage.”

” ... The same thing happened in Ienith and in the Dwarf Kingdom, are the resourceful houses the ones starting all the turmoil?”

“No doubt.”

” ... Have information about me already been exposed?”

“I would think so. However, as I mentioned previously, I don’t think any of them will attack openly.”

“If that’s the case then naturally the fact that Lionel and Cathy are with me has also been exposed right?”

“Yeah. As long as we remain as slaves and accompany you, we won’t need to worry about reckless attacks in fear of your retaliation.”

I understood the fundamental reason why I could not release Lionel and the other’s slave contracts until the problem with the Empire is resolved.

While thinking that I have apparently earned some confidence from Lionel and the others, I finished making dinner.

The next day, after telling them that there’s only a single day left before we arrive at the Holy Capital, I strictly ordered them to register as adventurers.

Since identification can’t be made without it.

I decided to entrust them to my cooking mentor Graz-san. (TL: Graz is the guildmaster of the Adventurer’s Guild in the Holy Capital)

“Once we depart from the Holy Capital, I’ll finally be able to have another bout with Whirlwind.”

“Yeah. We might have to spend a few days in the Holy Capital but we will be going to Meratoni without a doubt. I wish to take the opportunity to re-examine myself slightly.”

“I’d also like to try fighting nya.”

“Shisho is as much of a battle maniac as Lionel so I believe he would come to fight even if you leave him alone. Of course, that includes Kefin too. I believe Garba-san would have returned by the time we arrive at Meratoni.”

” ... I’ll do my best to not die.”

“Was Garba-san’s gruelling training that bad?”

” ... I saw the revolving lanterns multiple times.”

“What, that’s normal. Every day was like that when I was in Meratoni.”

“Eh?”

“I see. So that’s why ...”

“It’s not that you’re insensitive to pain, something like that is ordinary for you huh nya.”

They all showed various reactions to my words but I smoothly let it all pass.

“There are many pro-human race doctrines in the Saint Schull Church.

If Cathy and Kefin fall into any set ups, it's alright to fire back.

Absolutely do not lose.

If you're told something and it can't be resolved by saying that you're my retainer, you can also remain on standby and spend time outside the church at the Adventurer's Guild."

"Would it be alright in the Adventurer's Guild nya?"

"Aren't there a lot of human races among adventurers too?"

"I don't think that much would have changed in just a single year but I don't think anything that severe will happen so it will somehow work out."

"I understand about the 2 of them but how about me?"

"I might have Lionel train with the Paladin Corps."

"I think that will be great."

"It's unfair if it's only Lionel-sama nya."

"I wish to gather information at the Adventurer's Guild for the time being."

“I’ll entrust that to you Cathy as well for a while.”

“It can’t be helped then nya.”

It would be great if the former slaves move normally but since I have no way of knowing what would happen, I requested for them to be monitored.

Thus as our various conversations progressed, around the time the sky dyed red, I finally returned to the Holy Capital after little over a year.

Author’s Note:

Thank you for reading.

Book 8: The Holy Capital Knights' Rapid Progress

Chapter 125: Church Headquarters’ Reception

After arriving at the Saint Schull Allied Nations and before we complete the procedure to enter the Holy Capital Saint Schull, I stored all the horses except for Fornoir into the Hermit stable so the former slaves and Lionel and the others had to walk on foot.

I totally did not care for such appearances but everyone strongly requested for it so I complied.

“Deviant Saint-sama, welcome back.”

The gate guard called out, causing me to recall the fact that I was called Deviant Saint and gave me indescribably mixed feelings of nostalgia as I gave a wry grin.

I spoke to the gate guard in a hurry while holding such feelings.

“Thank you for the hard work. Has anything changed the past year?”

“Nothing in particular. There hasn’t been any appearance of very strong monsters and there’s not been any serious occurrences.”

“I see. Thank you.”

Without getting off my horse, I directly moved toward the

Adventurer's Guild first.

Within the bustling city, Fornoir's proud strides drew gazes onto me and voices called out.

"Deviant Saint-sama, welcome back."

"I'll be in your care during the Whimsical Day."

"I look forward to you buying my cooking in large quantities again."

Hearing those voices, I felt my smile naturally broaden.

"You look like you're in a good mood."

"Luciel-sama, why are you grinning just because people called out to you nya?"

"Well, it's natural since it feels nostalgic. Here, my life won't be targeted, there aren't any troublesome work and it is a life where the benefits you get is reflected by the amount of hard work you put in just like a mirror."

That's right. So to speak, for me, Meratoni is like my hometown and coming to Saint Schull Allied Nations is like moving to the capital.

Only then did I realise that my shoulder and elbows were feeling fairly stiff recently.

“I wonder why does Luciel-sama have the nickname of Deviant Saint.”

” ... Kefin, I think it’s fine if you don’t worry about that, ah, it will be the Adventurer’s Guild after we turn this corner.”

While having such silly talks, I stopped in front of the Adventurer’s Guild, dismounted Fornoir, and stroked her for a bit before entrusting her care to the healers.

Well, I don’t think anybody will snatch the horse I ride in this Holy Capital but just to be safe.

I entered the Adventurer’s Guild together with the former slaves.

Possibly because it was evening time, the interior of the Adventurer’s Guild was crowded with quite a number of people.

Just by calling out from far away, the adventurers took notice of us.

I smiled and headed for the counter to request for the adventurer’s registration of the former slaves.

“Because these people are able to use magic, even without martial

arts skills, would it be possible to register them as adventurers as a special case?”

” ... The decision on whether registration is possible or not will be after I measure them. That decision will be up to the Guildmaster.”

“That’s true. By the way, where’s Granz-san?”

“Currently, he has gone to call the other staffs but the dining hall is slightly busy at this moment so you may have to wait for a while.”

“I understand. Then I’ll leave their measurements to you.”

“Certainly. Well then, the accompanying people, this way please.”

The receptionist began their adventurer’s registration and explanation.

I wonder if I inadvertently missed out on some of the contents when I just became an adventurer? I was also listening to the receptionist’s talk when Granz-san came.

“Long time no see.”

“Long time no see, Granz-san.”

“It’s really been a long time Luciel. Are you still continuing to cook?”

“I haven’t been able to do so much lately but I did acquire the skill without noticing.”

“I see. So, why are you here today? I thought you’re acting as the representative of Ienith?”

“My term had ended so I wanted to come home for now. After feeling depressed seeing how I could not do anything on my own for the whole year, I came back with the thought to train myself little by little.”

“Are they your retinue?”

“The 3 here are slaves but they are my retinue that I place my trust in.

The others are illegal and debt slaves that are able to use magic so I brought them along to ask if you can register them as adventurers.”

“I see. Alright, I’ll accept them.”

“Is it alright?”

“Yeah. Lately, the establishment of connections with the church has been advancing so it’s not bad to think of this as part of the business. Naturally, you plan to swing by here to check up on their situation right?”

“Yeah. I intend to spend a few days in the Holy Capital Schull. In the immediate future, I plan to travel between Meratoni and the Holy Capital so I will show my face as much as possible.”

“It’s fine then. Moreover, you’re shrewdly coming here first before going to the church.”

“Thank you. I’ll take up your kind offer. Also, here is a month’s worth of their food expenses and lodging fees.”

” ... Why is Luciel the one paying?”

“I’m in the position I have now because of the kindness from everyone in Meratoni that allowed me to work hard in the Holy Capital Schull. I’m merely passing the baton to the next person.”

“You’re really a nice guy after all. But you’ll be exploited for that you know?”

“I have a pretty dry personality apart from when it involves the exchange of lives so it doesn’t matter.”

“Alright then. I’ll look after these guys.”

“Thank you.”

With my introduction of Granz-san to the former slaves, I bade farewell to the slaves here.

The slaves were extremely grateful but I told them that their future will depend on their own hard work from now on before leaving the Adventurer's Guild.

“It looked like you got along pretty well with him.”

“That's because he was my cooking mentor. In addition, I helped him and was helped by him, giving rise to our relationship now.”

As I replied with a smile, we began walking toward the church headquarters together with Estia and the others who were waiting.

For the sake of when the need arises, I informed Kefin and Cathy of the accommodation locations before arriving but I was still anxious as to what kind of reception they would receive as we head to the entrance.

“This sure is nostalgic too.”

Lionel and the others acted their part as slaves and Estia and the others had strained expressions on their faces so nobody reacted to my murmurings.

There were 2 receptionist ladies but they were both acquaintances so I gave some simple greetings before jumping straight to the topic.

“Could you please help me call Catherine-san and Granhart-san?”

“Certainly. Please wait a moment.”

Both of them held separate magic communication beads and began communicating by shutting their eyes and concentrating.

While feeling surprised that there were 2 magic communication beads, I waited for the receptionists to finish their correspondence.

“We have received the message from Catherine-sama and Granhart-sama requesting that you wait here.”

“I see. Thank you.”

It felt like a weird time to pass souvenirs to the 2 receptionist ladies but I still decided to hand them honey candies from my magic bag.

Even though I’m not hated by other receptionists, it would be a huge shock to be hated by my own company’s receptionists.

“Ah, that’s right. These are some candies made from honey but if

it's alright with you, do you mind tasting it and letting me know what you think of it?"

“”Are you sure?””

“Yeah. Since I'm thinking of releasing it as a new item made from honey in Ienith. Here you go.”

『Thank you very much!』

The 2 of them immediately placed it in their mouths and they smiled broadly at once.

I don't know the cause as to why the sweet taste wasn't promoted in this world. However, I made a guts pose in my heart thinking that the decision to make the honey factory wasn't a wrong choice.

After listening to the receptionist ladies' impression on the honey candies, Catherine-san and Granhart-san arrived.

Then, Catherine placed her hand on the hilt of her sword.

“It's been a long time, the 2 of you. The 3 people here are slaves but they have already cleared the slave contract dispel conditions and are my retinue. The people on this side are not slaves but they are the people affiliated with the church that I spoke of with Pope-sama.”

After I conveyed that, Catherine posed a question to me without changing her posture.

“Luciel-kun, welcome back. Nevertheless, do you know who is the person next to you that you have brought here?”

Next to me? It would be Lionel.

“Yeah. Ex-General Sen’oni from the Elimasia Empire. I purchased him when he was sold as a slave in Ienith.”

” ... But there has been rumours about General Sen’oni rampaging on the battlefield lately?”

“That can’t be true. Because for this whole year, he’s been acting as my guard without rest. Nevertheless, so Catherine-san is acquainted with Lionel.”

“I’ve seen several of his battles. If one mentions General Lionel of the Empire, him running across the battlefield on his horse and the sight of him swinging his spear is truly like an Oni.”

“That’s true but what about it?”

I have heard of such things regarding Lionel but it’s not like such rumours can dispel what has happened the past year.

“That was my job after all. It can’t be helped that I’m seen as a

mass murderer from the eyes of other countries.”

“In addition to you being a combat maniac right. Catherine-san, what is wrong with bringing them into the church headquarters while they are still slaves?”

I finally heard what I wanted to hear.

” ... There’s no problem. Since slaves are defined as a person’s personal belongings. Well if there was a problem, Luciel-kun would not be able to escape punishment regardless of your rank as S-rank healer.”

“What about the 2 beastmen here?”

“Although there are a lot of pro-human activists, the church itself does not endorse such behaviour in particular so I guess there are no problems.”

“That’s great. Then, I’ll leave their hearing to Granhart-san. If there’s no issue, I would like Catherine-san to lead me to Pope-sama. Since I still can’t reach Pope-sama’s room on my own even until now ...”

The atmosphere calmed down slightly after I said that laughingly.

“To give me orders, Luciel-kun sure has become admirable. But to not be able to go to Pope-sama’s room on your own ... you sure

haven't changed in that aspect. Alright. Will your retinue be coming to have an audience too?"

"Yes. Thank you."

While feeling grateful that Catherine-san showed concern for me, I discerned that the silent Granhart-san was a person who does not speak in front of his supervisors as we were led by Catherine-san and began moving to Pope-sama's room.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 126: Luciel's Desire

Estia and the others were led by Granhart-san and we parted with them at the magic-driven elevator.

Me, Lionel and the others, and the former slaves followed behind Catherine in that order and we arrived in front of Pope-sama's room. (TL: I thought the former slaves were left at the Adventurer's Guild? The author didn't mention the former slaves after this so it's most likely a typo.)

Catherine knocked on the door before conveying her business.

"Pope-sama, this is Catherine. S-rank healer Luciel-sama has returned so I have guided him here."

I didn't know why I was affixed with sama by Catherine-san but I heard Pope-sama's voice before I could ask.

"Enter."

As usual, after hearing the dignified voice, Catherine-san opened the door to Pope-sama's private room.

"Excuse me."

"Excuse me."

I entered the room after Catherine-san and Lionel and the others entered silently.

The interior of Pope-sama's room was the same as before with blinder partitions installed in the middle so that her face couldn't be seen.

While paying homage, I waited for Pope-sama to speak.

“Luciel, it's been a long time. The mere thought of how much effort you've put in for the church the past 1 year gives me an immense sense of gratitude towards you.”

“Your words are wasted on me. I somehow moved about in confusion and was able to overcome the odds together with my retinue behind me.”

“I see that your humility has not changed. What would you like as a reward for going to Ienith and firmly re-building the Healer's Guild?”

This time, I told people that I returned to the church headquarters to report but I have been reporting to Pope-sama for almost every single step of the way.

Because of that, I came here just for the sake of requesting the content of my personal reward.

Also, I had already decided on what I would request for.

But, whether it would go through or not depended on Pope-sama's mood.

"... Then I will say it without reserve. I wish to travel to the city in the sky, Independent Magic City Nelldal, once."

"... For what reason?"

"It is related to the labyrinth I cleared previously."

I can't speak of the dragon seals and of information relating to the Spirits to people other than Pope-sama and Catherine-san.

Also, since I have not memorised any magic other than Holy attribute magic, my desire to be able to attack from a distance was also included.

"... It can't be done immediately but are you okay with that?"

"Yes. I don't intend to rush it immediately but I would be happy if the preparations to enter the country is done ahead of time."

"... Is it also related to the increase of activity for the labyrinth in Ienith? I guess because the surrounding monsters also became stronger too ... so, what are your plans hereafter?"

"Yes. I plan to temporarily travel to Meratoni and train by

returning to basics.

Once that is over, I will travel to the Dwarf Kingdom once to collect my retinue's equipment and head to Nelldal if I get authorization or if that can't be done, head to Labyrinth Nation Grandol."

"I see. If the transfer arrangements to Nelldal can be done, it is possible to transfer from the Holy Capital."

"... That way of saying it means that I would only be able to travel to Nelldal from the Holy Capital?"

"Transfer is possible from all major cities of each country but similar to job change, approval will take time."

"I see ... speaking of job change, I became rank X in my Healer job the other day. If it's possible, could I request for a job promotion this time?"

"Oo! As expected of Luciel. To elevate the Healer job so such a high degree. Everyone else can leave. Could I be alone with Luciel for the time being?" Catherine and the attendants bowed and left the room.

Similarly, Lionel and the others looked at me and bowed before leaving.

After the door closed, Pope-sama came down from her throne

and walked over.

She's beautiful after all but I felt that she vaguely resembled Sir Rainstar as I spoke.

"I am extremely delighted to be bestowed the opportunity to lay eyes on your countenance. Thank you."

"Your face looks a lot more like an adult compared to a year ago. There's also the case with Ienith but by protecting Rockford, you've indeed helped me."

"It was thanks to my retinue as well."

While giving a wry grin, I requested for a lecture regarding job promotion.

"During job promotion, is there anything required of me to do?"

"There isn't any. If anything, it would be to choose the job you wish to have from the multiple job choices you have."

"Could I still use Healing Magic without problems if I choose a different job?"

"... It is a risk depending on the job. It might even become weaker compared to now. However, it does not necessarily mean that you can't choose another job so you don't have to worry about

it.”

“I see. Please go ahead then.”

“Sit here and close your eyes.”

“Yes.”

I followed Pope-sama’s words and sat down in a meditative posture and waited.

Pope-sama placed her hand on my head and weaved a chant but I completely could not comprehend the meaning of the words.

” ... You may open your eyes.”

It felt like only about one minute had passed before I was spoken to.

“So may I know what were the possible job promotions?”

” ... There was only Spirit Knight. Sorry, but could you put your job promotion on hold for the time being?”

Normally speaking, Spirit Knight should be a rare job without a doubt so it should be something to be happy about but Pope-sama lost the vigour she previously held.

I tried asking about it just in case it meant what I thought it meant.

” ... Is it because I would not be able to use Holy attribute magic if I become a Spirit Knight?”

“Yes, that will happen because the Holy attribute does not exist among Spirits. It’s a great pity even though I had expected to see the Philosopher/Sage job but I would like it if you give up on your job promotion.” (TL: I always thought that Philosopher was a title which was why I translated it as such but now that it’s mentioned as a job ... it would be wiser to translate it as Sage ... so from now on Philosopher would be changed to Sage. I won’t have time to change all the older chapters so it’ll start from this chapter.)

” ... As expected, it would hurt to not be able to use Healing Magic so I would also like to request to remain how I am now.”

“I see. It might be possible that the Blessing of the Spirits is interfering with it but long ago, I heard that the Sage was promoted automatically. It must have certain conditions.”

It might be possible to become a Sage if I release the seals on the dragons and obtain the blessing from all Spirits but ... to achieve that, it would be insufficient no matter how many lives I have.

Apart from that, the thought of the future where I would not be able to use Healing magic crossed my mind for a moment so maybe I should make preparations for when that future arrives?

It was vague but I began thinking about it.

“If you are in Meratoni, it would be fine to send in a scheduled report once every month. At that time, I will most likely also speak of the progress of the negotiations to Nelldal.”

“Understood. Ah, that’s right. Regarding the hearing of the 5 former slaves that has begun, they are connected to the Elimasia Empire so if you obtain any background, please contact me as well.”

“Fumu. Alright. Don’t try to do anything too irrational.”

“Yes. In the future, I will still commit to the goal of dying of old age and to work hard for the sake of the church.”

” ... Luciel, I am truly sorry for saddling you with this burden. If there’s anything I can do, you can depend on me okay?”

“Thank you. I plan to not take such flashy action in the future but if I need aid I will consult you first and foremost.”

“I’ll entrust it to you.”

As we both exchanged smiles, I was unusually offered to shake hands and left the room.

The feeling of Pope-sama's hand was really nice but it would be rude to keep holding on to her hand so I conveyed my thanks and left Pope-sama's private room.

After opening the door and exiting, I heaved a sigh that diverted my tension but the sensation remained intact.

“That was nerve wrecking~, eh, Catherine-san, what's wrong?”

The strange situation of Catherine-san lowering her head to Lionel as if begging was happening.

The person who spoke out about the phenomenon in front of me was not Catherine-san but Lionel.

“Luciel-sama, would it be okay to accept the request to have a mock battle with the Paladin Corps?”

I held my head for Lionel's battle mania that did not betray my expectations as well as the fact that I completely forgot that Catherine-san was also a combat maniac.

However, I had no choice but to permit their decision to feel each other out.

Since Catherine-san's eyes were serious.

With the conditions to not die and to not cause death, I

reluctantly gave my approval for the mock battle.

Author's note:

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 127: Mock Battle

Brought along by Catherine-san, we walked down the maze-like corridor for the first time in a while before arriving at the Valkyrie Paladin Corps training ground.

“The fact that you’ve brought us to the Valkyrie Paladin Corps’ training ground means that?”

When I asked Catherine-san, she replied with a grin.

“Yeah, I’d have you all conduct a mock battle with these girls (Valkyrie Paladin Corps). The other 2 apart from General Sen’oni look considerably strong as well and wouldn’t it be better to have these girls who know Luciel-kun’s actual ability as opponents to find out how much Luciel-kun has grown?”

I could comprehend that it has already been decided that I would also be participating in the mock battle and that I could not escape.

However, I will not give up until the end.

“It’s going to be dinner time soon and we must find a place to stay so can’t we have it at a later date?”

“To think that you would want to have a mock battle at a later date as well, you sure have become indomitable unbeknownst to me. Furthermore, if it’s for the slaves that Luciel-kun brought along, we’ve properly prepared guest rooms for them so be at

ease.”

I can't feel at ease at all and why do I feel an overwhelming sense of Déjà vu?

While weeping in my heart, I gave up on resisting.

The Valkyrie Paladin Corps have already formed up and were waiting for us ... ?

“Why have they already formed ranks?”

“Of course, that's because this is the predetermined route after all.”

Catherine-san said with a smile.

When I looked over, Lumina-san saluted and spoke.

“Luciel-sama, it's been a long time. Please treat us well during today's mock battle.”

I don't know the reason, maybe it's because the ranks have been reversed or that Lionel and the others are around but, I just want to say a single thing.

” ... Lumina-san, everyone else too, it's fine to use the same tone

as in the past. If that can't be done, at least limit it to when there aren't any other people around. The hairs on my back would stand if everyone uses honorific language towards me."

"As expected, Luciel-kun hasn't changed at all."

"Even though I've went through all the trouble of planning to sincerely beat him up during the mock battle if he acted all self-importantly."

Continuing after Lumina, Lucy spoke while smiling before each and everyone began talking such that I could no longer keep up with them.

"Did you become slightly stronger?"

"Lipnea and I would present to you an introduction to our dual-sword technique."

"Eh? I'm doing it too?"

"Of course."

Elizabeth, who has not trained in her dual-sword technique at all lately, tried to say so to Lipnea to make an excuse but she could not successfully convey her intentions.

Then, the sound of clapping hands could be heard.

“I understand that everyone is feeling delighted for the reunion but we’re pressed for time so let’s start the battle immediately.”

『Yes!』

The merry mood that was on until then was completely reversed and switched to a combat mood.

“To start with, it’s alright if it is your personal opinion Luciel-kun but how many versus how many do you think would be good for the mock battle?”

“Let’s see. If we’re allowing magic then 10 from the Valkyrie Paladin Corps and 4 of us? Of course, that’s if Catherine-san acts as the referee, but I believe that would be a good match.”

“Luciel-kun, it sounds like that remark is saying that we, the Valkyrie Paladin Corps, is weak though?”

“Lumina-san, that is not true. If I fight all of you one versus one, I believe I would be completely defeated. However, even though they have slave identities for certain reasons, my retinue are all considerably excellent. Also, the balance of combat styles may also play a part.”

Once I finished saying that, Catherine-san gave a bold smile and spoke.

“Luciel-kun, it’s really fine for 10 versus 4 right? Lumina, other than cutting the heart and neck, anything else goes so do coach them with all your might. Luciel-kun too, don’t get done in easily okay?”

As might be expected, Catherine-san was angered by my remark but if she knows about Lionel’s true strength, then her remark is instead too thoughtless.

My Area Barrier’s effect has improved quite considerably as well. I became worried for the girls who did not know about that.

“What about the weapons?”

“As long as it’s not directed at the vitals or beheading, it can be treated if it’s Luciel-kun right?”

“That’s not a problem but ... is it a mock battle assuming that it is actual combat?”

“Yeah. That would make both sides mutually feel a sense of tension right?”

When I turned to Lionel and the others, they smiled and nodded.

“Understood. When does the combat start?”

“We’ll gather in the middle and this time, we’ll start after taking

a distance of 30 steps.”

“Alright.”

Thus, for the purpose of conducting the mock battle, we gathered at the middle, waited for Catherine’s cue for the start and the combat began.

I invoked 「Area Barrier」 using 「Chant Termination」 as Lionel stood in front of me and Cathy and Kefin flew out for the sake of hit-and-run attacks.

Five members from the Valkyrie Paladin Corps ran towards Cathy and Kefin while the remaining 5 members started running towards me and Lionel.

“Should I prioritize defence? Or do I press them with force?”

“I cannot affirm the opponent’s abilities from what we’ve seen so we’ll think about it after receiving their attacks.”

“Affirmative.”

Lumina-san, Saran-san, Myra-san, Beatrice-san, and Kathy-san rained down attacks onto Lionel from multiple angles. Against that, Lionel took a single step back and swung his large shield and greatsword, the girls hit by that were instantaneously blown away. (TL: There was a Cathy previously in the Valkyrie Paladin Corps but I’ll translate it as Kathy from here on to avoid confusion with

our Cat Beastwoman Cathy)

During that gap, a sword pierced Lionel.

However, the wound didn't appear deep so I immediately performed a Heal for the sake of stopping the bleeding and sent a barrier toward Lionel with Magic Circle Chant.

At the same time, I also continued to apply barrier and heal to Cathy and Kefin who were performing hit-and-run attacks.

If their injuries are immediately healed as if having All Regeneration, their movement capabilities would not drop.

As if such worries are unnecessary, though she had taken wounds to the extent of scratches, Cathy was dodging attacks while certainly dealing damage to the girls by performing counter attacks.

Kefin was also using all his ninjutsu, luring friendly fire by disappearing like a fog while buying time by detonating his art of body replacement dummy even when they think they've hit him.

That was when the match sped up.

Maybe they thought that as expected it would be bad if this continued, Saran-san who was blown away and Elizabeth-san who was at Kefin's place took a detour and, perhaps targeting me, launched an attack towards us.

“Even though it’s not constructed purely for attack power, there’s no choice huh ...”

I transformed the illusionary cane in my right hand into illusionary sword and channelled magic into it, pulled out a shield from my magic bag and held it with my left hand, and decided to match their 2 swords with my illusionary sword while defending my vitals.

At the same time their 2 swords struck my illusionary sword, I slashed out.

I took advantage of the chance to firstly send the dual-sword user Elizabeth-san flying with a kick and then performed a rotation and bashed Saran-san with my shield.

Because their weapons were destroyed, the surprised 2 stopped their movements.

While thinking that the reason for their defeat was because they struck the illusionary sword without knowing it’s capabilities, Elizabeth-san and Saran-san didn’t let their guard down and distanced themselves from Lionel and the others to recover.

Even while wounded, due to Elizabeth-san who has multiple number of moves leaving the combat, Kefin went on the offensive with ninjutsu that I saw for the first time.

Without receiving an attack even once, Kefin led Lipnea-san, Maruruka-san, and Lucy-san by the nose as they were dyed with fresh red blood.

“Lionel, do you need assistance?”

” ... Hmm. Could Luciel-sama defeat them one-by-one?”

“Alright.”

While receiving attacks, Lionel blew Kathy-san towards me.

To face the wounded Kathy-san, I readied my illusionary sword.

“That sword is foul play. This weapon was expensive so please don’t break it.”

“Then please declare your surrender and join Elizabeth-san and Saran-san.”

“Alright. I concede to that weapon.”

Despite her minimal number of words, Kathy-san declared her defeat due to the difference in weapon performance.

Even so, I was pleased for winning against the girls for the first time.

In the meantime, Cathy and Kefin proceeded to defeat the members of the Valkyrie Paladin Corps whose movement capabilities dropped due to their wounds.

Pushed into resigning, only Lumina-san remained.

“Way too impregnable. What nonsense.”

Lumina-san muttered that, sent out a continuous attack of the strongest attacks she could pull forth but, Lionel defended against all of it with his large shield.

“Since Luciel-sama’s 「Area Barrier」 is not something ordinary.”

” ... I’ve forgotten.”

“Are you sure you want to look away?”

Lionel swung his large sword and Lumina avoid it but she stopped when swords hit the scruff of her neck.

No, to be accurate, she was made to stop.

Cathy and Kefin had finished moving over unnoticed and their swords formed a cross at her neck over her shoulder from behind.

“Fu~. You’ve chosen good retainers Luciel-kun. To think that we would be defeated by smaller numbers.”

“Thank you. So, this time it will be our victory so I’ll start healing everyone.”

“Thank you.”

When we headed to Catherine-san, she nodded with a smile and announced the winner.

“The winners are Luciel-kun and his retinue.”

While thinking that she has no naming sense, I healed everyone’s injuries by invoking 「Area High Heal」 with 「Magic Circle Chant」 and I thought that today’s plans ended with that.

However, reality is uncertain after all.

“Well then, it looks like Luciel-kun’s level has increased as well so why don’t you have a mock battle with me to test your strength and see if you have truly become stronger instead of just your skills getting stronger.”

“Eh? I don’t want to though.”

“But we only found out that your weapon is amazing, without knowing your true strength, I won’t know when you would require

assistance or not right?”

After that, Catherine-san would not listen to anything I say.

“It’s time for dinner today so if it’s tomorrow morning ...”

By saying those words, I could no longer escape from Catherine-san and the Valkyrie Paladin Corps.

” ... Have I reached a stage where I can’t reject the request of people who helped me when I was in trouble?”

Although there wasn’t anybody who showed a reaction to my murmurings, Lionel and Catherine-san were conversing and Cathy and Kefin were happily speaking with the girls without being looked down upon as beastmen, so I thought “Oh well”.

At that point in time, I had no way of knowing that the next day, the scale of the mock battle would develop to such an unthinkable scale.

Author’s note:

Thank you for reading.

Everyone, this year, thank you very much for sending plenty of comment for Invincible Saint.

Next year, I will try to slightly up the tempo while working hard to make it enjoyable.

Once my new work is settled I plan to upload it so I'll be in your care next year as well.

TL: Thank you for reading and commenting as well! 😊 I'm also looking forward to the rise in tempo from this volume onward!

Chapter 128: Shadowing

After our mock battle with the Valkyrie Paladin Corps led by Lumina-san ended, we, including Catherine-san, came to the dining hall together.

Rosa-san, who was my nostalgic date partner, looked like she was busy working in the kitchen.

“Rosa-san, good evening.”

Upon calling out, Rosa-san lifted her face and greeted me with a smile when she recognized my face.

“Luciel-sama, it’s been a long time. Did you just return today?”

“Yeah. Nevertheless, the dining hall sure is calm as usual.”

“I hope that they would at least enjoy themselves during meals though ... although it hasn’t changed since from long ago.”

“So I was the peculiar one right. Ah, is it alright if I request for the usual mountain-large serving?”

“Leave it to me, wait a moment okay.”

Rosa-san said so as she entered the back of the kitchen. At around the same time, I heard Catherine-san’s voice from behind me.

“Luciel-kun, you’re getting along well with Rosa-san as usual.”

When I turned around, Catherine-san and Lumina-san were standing there. (TL: Do I detect jealousy? xD)

“Well, that’s right ... but it’s normal right? Since it is more pleasant to be harmonious. In work, in meals and in life, it’s better for it to be pleasant compared to dull right?”

When I replied so with a smile, Catherine-san and Lumina-san laughed.

While thinking that including the 2 of them, the Valkyrie Paladin Corps sure is a collection of beautiful women after all, I persuaded myself that I am now more interested in practicality over aesthetics so it is irrelevant to me.

While having such thoughts, I looked in the direction of Lionel and the others and saw that each and every one of the Valkyrie Paladin Corps members looked like they were flowers in bloom, delighted as they talked about various contents.

When I asked about it at a later date, apparently they were interested because usually, they do not have the opportunity to converse with a former general from the Empire and with beastmen.

In the meantime, Rosa-san called out to me.

“Here thanks for waiting. There’re more servings so come back again if there’s not enough.”

“Thank you.”

I took the dish from Rosa-san with a smile and moved to a large table which could sit everyone.

Catherine-san and Lumina-san sat in front of me and everyone else sat down after a little while.

Maybe because they were my retainers even though they were slaves or because they were overwhelmed by them during the mock battle, everyone from the Valkyrie Paladin Corps did not show reluctance in sitting together with Lionel and the others.

Rather than that, they were hit with a barrage of questions and it was interesting to watch Lionel and the others answer while enjoying themselves even though they were slightly bewildered.

I also talked with Catherine-san and Lumina-san as we took our meal.

“I’ve not really heard of many changes this one year but have the impressions of everyone towards the established price setting changed slightly?”

“I’ve not left the church headquarters but from the reports, it doesn’t really seem like the healers think favourably of it. However, it looks like the children that have just become healers repeatedly continued to chant as taught by Luciel-kun, resulting in reports of their skill levels rising considerably faster compared to previous years.”

“We, the Valkyrie Paladin Corps also received complaints when we established the price setting and guidelines during our expeditions but they were all from those who have worked multiple years. Conversely, after knowing about the pricings, the cases where citizens thanked us was greater than ever and the crimes in places with church branches have also apparently decreased.”

“Why would the crimes decrease?”

I don’t remember doing anything to improve the public security so I couldn’t understand why.

“Because the healing fee is set, the fear towards getting injured has been eased slightly so the stress adventurers in particular feel have most likely decreased. The decrease in fellows who resort to burglary and thievery to earn gold seems to be a factor. The healer acquaintances I have belonging to other countries also said so.”

“I’m glad to hear that the fee revision and guidelines are getting accepted better than I had imagined. I was even considering new methods if it didn’t work out. Pope-sama didn’t contact me at all regarding it so I was slightly anxious.”

While giving a bitter smile, I brought the food to my mouth.

“Including Pope-sama and Archbishop-samas, I am also enquiring about the guidelines so you don’t need to worry. Leaving that aside, I’ve heard that the desk work you had in Ienith was dreadful but it looks like you still managed to continue your training.”

“That is the hard word required in order to live life safely. Furthermore, my retinue loves mock battles so thanks to that, there was almost not a day without training.”

The instant I replied with that, Catherine-san and Lumina-san asked about Lionel and the others with serious expressions.

” ... It’s a serious topic but how did General Lionel become your retainer? In the first place, why did he become a slave?”

“He’s the Empire’s hero who rose to prominence with the name of General Sen’Oni you know? He can even be said to be a figure to the extent whereby the Elimasia Empire would have been swallowed up quickly by its neighbouring countries if he was not around.”

So both Catherine-san and Lumina-san knew about Lionel.

Since the 2 of them praised him like that, Lionel’s strength when he was serving as a general must have been amazing.

I've been reminded on a regular basis that he's not of a regular class but to actually have acquaintances speak of his greatness once again reminds me of it.

"I don't know if you will believe me but I did purchase Lionel and Cathy from a slave dealer. In particular, Lionel was in a condition where he could not move both his feet."

"In the first place, why did you buy slaves? You should have departed together with a number of healers and Priest Knights."

"Because the Healer's Guild was buried in the slums district and you were attacked right?"

While feeling that I would like the 2 of them to talk slightly more gently as they were using military tones, I continued to conversation.

"Yeah. The public security was worse than expected and I felt that I can't expect the Priest Knights to guard the place without sleep or rest. In addition, I wanted my own bodyguards so I went to the slave dealer. Then, Lionel stood out when he acted as if nothing happened when I applied intimidation and because luckily I could heal Lionel's feet, I asked him to protect me."

"Your luck was seriously good."

"... The fact that slaves are also humans have not changed. Don't

forget that okay?”

“Yeah. I intend to interact with them as my retainers instead of as my slaves.”

I’ll not touch on the case where Lionel and the others told Catherine-san and Lumina-san how kindly/naively I treat slaves. (TL: This ‘kindly’ is with a slightly negative connotation. We all know how he treats slaves. Kind/naive/honest/innocent/sincere. There isn’t really a word to translate the Japanese word 甘い used in this context imo.)

“By visiting other countries, have you understood how Saint Schull’s Allied Nations is the headquarters for Healers?”

“Yeah. It’s really great that Meratoni was the first city I arrived at. If it was Ienith, my life as a healer would have checkmated. Thinking that in the future Ienith will become a city kind to Healers just like Meratoni somewhat gives me a sense of accomplishment.”

“I see. Speaking of which, regarding tomorrow’s mock battle, would it be fine if your retainers have a mock battle as well?”

Hmm? The conversation content somehow feels like it has changed quite a bit but I tried asking Lionel and the others.

“Lionel, Cathy, Kefin. Are you all able to participate in the mock battle?”

“If Luciel-sama wishes so. Personally, it is something I greatly welcome as preparation for my fight with Whirlwind in Meratoni.”

Lionel said so as the representative but was it because they have the ability so they didn't complain?

Cathy and Kefin also silently nodded so it was decided that the 3 of them would participate but I did not miss the gleam in Catherine-san and Lumina-san's eyes.

Probably because today's mock battle was a complete victory, their flames seem to have been lit so our stay would most likely be a couple of days.

After dinner, because Catherine-san told me that my personal room was maintained as it was, I returned to my personal room and Lionel and the others moved to the guest rooms.

“It's already quite late but maybe I'll spend some time in the Labyrinth of Tribulations ... Ah, Fornoir and the others are still in the Hermit's stable. I'll be having Yanbus-san look after them for a couple of days so I should head to the stable first.”

I began walking towards the Valkyrie Paladin Corps training ground.

When I first walked the path, the way to the stable felt like it was

a maze but I just walked from there so I could completely remember it, just as I was about to reach the Paladin Corps training ground, I discovered Estia ahead of me.

“What on earth is Estia doing here? ... Rather than that, why is she able to travel in this maze-like church without getting lost?”

Thinking that Estia’s movements were suspicious, I took my distance and shadowed Estia while making sure she didn’t notice.

Author’s Note:

Happy new year. (TL: LOL I just only reached the first post in 2016. Omg author you release way too fast >.<)

I’ll be in your care this year as well.

Thank you for reading.

Chapter 129: Spirit And Spirit

When I chased after Estia, I discovered that instead of going to the Valkyrie Paladin Corps training grounds, she went towards the official entrance of the stable which I didn't even know about.

" ... It looked like she entered here? Why would Estia need to come to the stable?"

I tilted my head as I gently opened the door to the entrance of the stable.

Since it was night time, the magic lamps in the stable were lit in the lowest setting, giving the place a dim feeling but visibility was maintained.

While peering around as I moved forward, I found Estia's figure peeping into each and every one of the stalls.

"Is there nobody else around other than the manager Yanbusan? Is she only looking for a horse? Or is she looking for Fornoir?"

Questions popped into my head one after the other but Estia looked like she was disappointed when she finished peeping into the stalls and backtracked towards my direction.

I quickly hid inside one of the empty stalls.

It didn't look like she noticed me so before I chased after Estia, I tentatively checked all the stalls and found that all the horses were sound sleep.

“Did Estia make them sleep?”

Was there a reason why she made them sleep?

While thinking about that, I also confirmed that Yanbus-san and the 2 other caretakers were asleep at the rest area.

“Did Estia cause them to sleep?”

I applied 「Recover」 and woke the 3 of them up.

“Fu~Ah? Ain't it Luciel-sama?”

“Good evening Yanbus-san. Were you napping in the middle of your duty?”

” ... I was asleep?”

“Yes. You don't remember?”

“That's bad! Hey, you guys wake up.”

Yanbus-san woke the 2 caretakers and went to peek into the

stalls.

“Did Estia make them sleep? Or did the Darkness Spirit do it? ... Although I’ve told Pope-sama, I have no choice but to find out about Estia’s intention to know if bringing her here was the correct choice.”

Losing the desire to head for the Labyrinth of Tribulations, I called out to Yanbus-san and returned to my own room.

I was honestly surprised when I returned to my own room.

“? Estia, why are you here? Rather than that, how did you know that this is my room?”

Estia was waiting in front of my room.

After I called out to Estia, she looked slightly troubled as she began speaking.

“Luciel-sama, I have a request. Could you please let me meet that horse once again?”

” ... Are you referring to Fornoir when you say that horse?”

“Yes. The black horse that Luciel-sama rode on.”

After saying that, Estia lowered her head.

“I’ll be honest. I am wary towards Estia.”

“Eh?”

A seriously surprised expression was on the face that looked up.

If this was an act, I’ll never be able to see through her lies.

I’ll be forced to yield if that’s the case ... I spoke as that thought passed through my mind.

“Even in the Dwarf Kingdom, there were those who lost their memories regarding you, Estia. And then, this time, you walked to the stable without getting lost and either under the direction of the Darkness Spirit or by borrowing the strength of the Darkness Spirit, you made Yanbus-san and the horses sleep, so I am conflicted as to how to deal with you.”

The Darkness Spirit may have saved Estia from her predicament but I must make a decision if she were to use that for evil.

I must remove all harm that can befall people related to the church, Pope-sama first and foremost. The only person who can do so is me as I can’t be affected by status abnormalities and I also have the responsibility for bringing Estia here.

However, Estia showed me an unexpected reaction.

” ... Ha~ oh Luciel. I’ll also give you my blessing so let me see elder sister.”

” ... What are you saying?! Are you not Estia?”

“You should have noticed it vaguely right? I want to meet elder sister so I borrowed Estia’s body to appear in front of you.”

Different from before, I was starting to feel overwhelming pressure.

“Darkness Spirit? Why did you imitate Estia after possessing her body? Furthermore, the person I was talking to just now should have been the real Estia.”

“Hou. So you can tell to that extent. That’s because Estia was awake until just earlier.”

Perhaps because it had possessed Estia’s body, I was beginning to hear 2 voices.

” ... What is your goal? What do you mean by elder sister? Rather than that, what are you making Estia do?”

“You’re nothing but questions huh. I was just tired of listening to Estia. So, I induced Estia to move to the stable and I merely made

the humans who saw this child sleep for the sake of this child who has a fear of strangers. It's not like I harmed them."

"It might be trivial to you Spirits but to the humans who were affected by Estia, it was an obstructive behaviour to their duties. Did you not notice me chasing after Estia?"

"Ha~ I did notice. My goal is to meet elder sister and apologize. As you see, I hope you can let me see elder sister."

The Darkness Spirit-possessed Estia lowered her head.

Because I couldn't feel the usual pride that Spirits usually possess, it felt slightly anticlimactic but integrating everything the Darkness Spirit had previously said, there was only 1 existence that it has been calling elder sister.

"Fornoir is your ... the elder sister to the Darkness Spirit?"

"Yes. So please."

I chantlessly invoked 「Sanctuary Circle」, 「Dispel」, and 「Recover」.

"To try to figure out if I'm a malevolent being, you sure are quite prudent."

The Darkness spirit possessing Estia gave an unsuitable laughter.

” ... They totally don’t work huh.”

“With me being the Darkness Spirit, there are many who misunderstand but I am not a malevolent being in particular.”

” ... So it seems.”

“Please, let me meet elder sister.”

“This may be pointless but do you swear to not harm the spirit Fornoir?”

“There’s no way I would do something like that to elder sister ... I swear.”

Believing in the Darkness Spirit that showed a human gesture for but a moment, I took out my Key of the Hermit and opened the door without minding that we’re in the middle of the corridor.

“Please speak from here. As long as Fornoir doesn’t wish to come out on her own ...”

Before I could say everything, Fornoir came out from the Hermit’s stable and sent Estia’s body flying.

“Fornoir, calm down. Estia’s body and Darkness Spirit’s body is different right?”

I stroked her neck to soothe her and she was only slightly agitated but she did not go violent.

“Fuu.”

It looked like the same thing would happen again if Estia's consciousness returned now so I applied Heal and I could see the Darkness Spirit's considerable exhaustion trying to stop Estia's consciousness from returning.

The next instant, black light manifested and wrapped around Estia's body, in response, Fornoir also wrapped herself in white light and they both stared at each other without moving.

I could only watch over the proceedings.

Without hearing any voices, I could surmise that a conversation between just the 2 of them was happening.

“You, thank you. Also, I entrust Estia's body to you. I'll appear again when my strength returns.”

After saying that, Estia fell towards me as if her strings were cut so I supported her and Fornoir also entered the Hermit's stable.

“I can no longer understand what's happening but what should I do?”

I didn't want to gain unwanted suspicion so recalling that it was Granhart-san's job to question her, with no other choice, I traveled towards Granhart's room and decided to carry Estia to the guest rooms.

"I was able to predict that it would turn out like this but ... so terrible."

It was as if the Darkness Spirit was plainly flaunting its power, I walked while waking up about 20 church officials sleeping along the corridor on the way to Granhart-san's room.

"If this is the case, I can easily imagine that Granhart-san would have been also made to fall asleep ... no other choice, maybe I'll bring her to Rosa-san's place."

When I reached the dining hall, they had finished cleaning up and I discovered Rosa-san and the others about to return so I entrusted Estia to her.

"Sorry. There would various problems if I took care of her so please help me guide her to the guest rooms."

"If that's the case then leave her to me. Luciel-sama and others have a mock battle tomorrow as well so you can entrust her to me."

Rosa-san smiled as she carried Estia in a princess carry and

walked away.

I saw Rosa-san off while looking at her reliable back.

“I’ll invite her to the clothes shop next time to buy her clothes as a present.”

I murmured as I was finally able to return to my own room this time.

A lot was going on in my head regarding Fornoir but I would not understand even if I thought about it so I threw in the towel and forcibly slept using the Angel’s Pillow.

Chapter 130: Combat Mental Attitude

Thanks to sleeping in my own room after a long time as well as the effect of Angel's Pillow, I was able to have a proper good night's sleep.

Since the morning sun had not risen outside, I could tell that it was earlier than usual.

“I'm not sure if the reason why I woke up at the usual time I woke up in the past is because I slept here after such a long time or because of Fornoir.”

Following my past habits, I did my morning stretches while thinking about the mock battle today.

Yesterday, because I have leveled up, my physical ability has significantly risen and compounded with the fact that I have not fought with the Valkyrie Paladin Corps for quite a while, I was able to defeat Elizabeth-san and Saran-san.

However, today I would be battling Catherine-san and Lumina-san who are both better than me in terms of level, physical ability, and technique, so I must think of some means to compete with them.

I'll slowly think about Fornoir and Estia later.

There's also the fact that Fornoir didn't talk to me but there's no

rush since it seemed like the Darkness Spirit does properly care about Estia.

“I’ll leave it up to Fornoir if she wants to return to the stable so maybe I’ll have a talk with Fornoir.”

I stopped doing my stretches and went to show myself at the Valkyrie Paladin Corps training ground.

The sun gradually began to rise and Catherine-san was there at the training ground when it became bright.

“Catherine-san, good morning. You’re early.”

“Luciel-kun, morning. There’s a mock battle today but I was so happy that I would be able to have a mock battle with General Lionel that I ...”

Looking at Catherine-san totally show a maiden’s expression, I thought to myself that Lionel sure is popular.

“Lionel is formidable you know.”

“I’m burning up. Since there’s no danger to life, my blood is boiling with the thought that I can fight seriously. If you’re up for it, do you want to have a light spar?”

It seemed like Catherine-san was just starved of battles.

The church is also like that but it might be this world's logic that strong people equal combat maniacs.

“Fine but please hold back.”

“I know, it's fine to use whatever weapon we specialize in.”

” ... Your weapon might end up breaking though?”

“I fight with that assumption so it's not a problem.”

“Is that so? ... Here I come then.”

To give the confident Catherine-san a little surprise, I approached her in an instant while replying and swung my illusionary sword.

“You're quite fast. But that's all to it.”

Even though I filled the distance in an instant using Body Strengthening that I did not use yesterday, she was able to avoid the illusionary sword with a paper thin margin.

“I'll keep on coming.”

I took out the Holy Dragon Spear and shifted my brain to use my

dual sword-spear technique after a long time as I continued to unleash my one hit one kill technique.

Being able to strike out with my offhand Holy Dragon Spear without wavering, my combat style was also changing little by little.

“That’s some amazing growth. Now, it might be tough for everyone other than Lumina to fight with you one-on-one.”

“You saying that makes me happy but I still totally can’t catch you at all ... as expected, you’re strong.”

“Of course. But all of the retainers that Luciel-kun brought are capable of this extent right?”

” ... If you’re talking about being able to treat me like a child in combat, yeah that’s right.”

She had most likely already grasped the majority of my ability yesterday.

There’s no doubt that this person is also a combat maniac after all.

“Is there nobody in the church who can fight with Catherine-san squarely?”

” ... There was a great number of them in the past. Hence there were many that I could aim towards. However, now I have to hold back when fighting so I’m truly grateful that you brought along strong people.”

While staring at Catherine-san’s expression that changed from a nostalgic expression to a lonely expression and then to a truly delighted one, I resumed my attacks.

“Even though I wish to win against Catherine-san a couple of years later, I’ll create a squad that you can’t win against so please wait for it.”

“Not aiming to win by yourself huh?”

“Because I’m a Healer.”

When I stabbed with the Holy Dragon Spear in my left hand, Catherine-san countered towards my chest as I showed the side of my body due to the thrust ... I was directly sent flying with a Kenka Kick. (TL: Kenka kick/Yakuza kick is a pro-wrestling move)

“Gahh”

When I somehow adjusted my posture after I was sent flying, the tip of a sword stopped right before my neck.

” ... I surrender.”

“It was a fairly sharp attack but, perhaps due to your shallow combat experience or because you think that you can heal yourself with healing magic whenever you want? there were plenty of openings.”

I was startled when I heard that.

Because I was certainly thinking that I could heal myself when in battle.

I wonder when did I start using such a fighting style?

“Will it become hopeless if I continue like this?”

“This fighting style is fine if Luciel-kun has retainers that can constantly defend you but even so, by committing to a 7-to-3 ratio of attacking and defending, you would suffer from unnecessary injuries when fighting against opponents that you can win against comfortably.”

” ... Could I request for another match?”

“Of course.”

Catherine-san gave a soft smile and readied herself.

After I was thrown down about another 10 times, before I knew

it, I noticed that everyone from the Valkyrie Paladin Corps was watching our early morning training when I stood up when it was about time for breakfast.

“You did well to not get your mind broken.”

“As expected of the greatest combat maniac among the Healers.”

“It’s amazing that you can take that much.”

While feeling that it was nostalgic to hear such voices, we all traveled together to the dining hall.

At the dining hall entrance, Lionel and the others, as well as Estia, were waiting for me.

“Morning everyone. Did you all get a good sleep in the church guest rooms?”

When I called out to the 4 of them, Lionel and Cathy looked like they had good sleep but Kefin’s expression stiffened slightly.

“I won’t say that it was comfortable but I could sleep properly.”

“I slept well nya.”

“I couldn’t really sleep. I still can’t calm down when lying on a

soft bed.”

Since Ienith, Kefin has never been good at sleeping on a soft bed.

“Kefin, it’s about time you get used to it. If you can’t get sleep on beds from this point on, you won’t be able to recover from your fatigue.”

“Sorry, please consider that I’ve been sleeping on the floor until just recently.”

” ... We’ll gradually convert your bed from a stiff bed to a soft bed.”

“Thank you.”

“Don’t worry about it. Estia, are you alright now?”

Ending my conversation with Kefin, I spoke to Estia who was looking downward.

The conversation was flowing naturally up to this point.

“Erm, good morning. About last night’s incident ...”

“We’ll talk about that incident later but is there a hearing today as well?”

“Yes. It seems like I will be assigned as a subordinate under the direct supervision of Luciel-sama after the hearing is over so please take care of me.”

“Ha? Who told you that?”

“Granhart-san.”

Granhart-san doesn't have such authority so was it enticement by the Darkness Spirit? When I thought up to that point, I heard a voice from behind me.

“Luciel-kun, that was decided by Pope-sama. The fact that Spirit Magic Swordsman is a rare job was also taken into consideration but above all else, since Sir Rainstar was a Spirit-user, Pope-sama judged that she might be a helpful existence to Luciel-kun in the future.”

Catherine-san thrust those words onto me.

Even though Pope-sama is a half-elf, she is the child of ridiculous people like Sir Rainstar. Since Sir Rainstar was a Spirit-user, there is sufficient or more than sufficient possibility that Pope-sama is capable of contacting Spirits herself.

” ... Let's have breakfast for now.”

I puzzled over those words and entered the dining hall.

“Rosa-san, thank you for last night.”

“Don’t mention it. Since Luciel-sama most likely don’t know where the guest rooms are.”

“Next time, I plan to go buy clothes for my retinue so please accompany me again when that time comes.”

“But I think it would be alright if I don’t go with you if you are fine with Anna’s shop?”

I tried asking her proactively since Rosa-san would try to decline from beginning to end.

I had already confirmed 3 years ago that the members behind me don’t have dress sense. (TL: He’s referring to the Valkyrie Paladin Corps girls xD)

“It also doubles as thanks for last night. Please.”

“!? O, okay so please raise your head.”

Rosa-san anxiously asked me to raise my head when I bowed and glancing up, I saw that she agreed.

“Then I’ll let you know when I plan to go.”

“I understand but I’ll be troubled if you lower your head.”

“I’ll be careful. Well then, a large serving please.”

” ... I somehow feel tired. Please wait a moment.”

When I requested for food with a smile, Rosa-san headed towards the back with a sigh.

“Luciel-kun, you’re interested in clothes?”

The quiet Lumina-san was the one who asked.

“Just as much as everyone else. There’s a possibility that I need them for when I visit other countries in the future and I also have engineer retainers who can enchant them.”

” ... By the way, does Luciel-kun know about the Principality of Blange?”

“Yeah. It’s the country to the eastern side of Ienith right? What about it?”

” ... It’s fine only if you get the chance to travel there but could you help me investigate the country’s situation when you do?”

” ... Understood. If I get the chance to go there, I’ll try investigating.”

I could tell that Lumina-san was acting differently from usual but I agreed without asking for the reason.

At that time, Rosa-san came at the right timing carrying food so I thanked her and head for the seats.

We spent our meal merrily as we talked about the mock battle today and Lumina-san who looked gloomy until just earlier also looked like she was enjoying herself.

While feeling slightly uneasy, we sent Estia to Granhart-san’s place and stepped foot into the training ground.

Chapter 131: Empire, Demon Race, Human Rights

After arriving at the Valkyrie Paladin Corps' training ground, we were stopped when we were about to immediately begin loosening our bodies.

“Luciel-kun, the mock battle today will be held at the large training ground ahead.”

The instant Catherine-san grinned and pointed at the large training ground, I got a bad feeling about it and immediately asked.

” ... I feel that this location would be sufficient with our numbers here? Or must it be done there?”

“A mock battle with these numbers would certainly be useful for you. However, I believe that gaining the experience of leading on a larger scale would be to Luciel-kun's advantage in the future.”

“I've not commanded such a scale before though?”

Even the combat in Ienith and the Dwarf Kingdom were horrible experiences.

Commanding a small number of people is my limit and even if I get Lionel to command them, I totally do not feel any appeal to this

mock battle.

Instead, I'm getting assaulted by nothing but bad feelings about it?

As I was thinking about that, Catherine-san began talking about the truth.

"So you won't do it after all ... yesterday, I don't know how they got wind of it but the other Paladin Corps and Priest Knight Corps asked me, saying that they also want to practice with Former General Lionel if there's no danger to their lives."

"Since you said that they asked you, please don't accept their request. I understand if it is a battle against a small number of people but fighting the entire Knight brigade is impossible."

While feeling surprised at Catherine-san who quite easily admitted it, I thought to myself that I would never have a chance to command such a scale of combat in my life but I don't feel the need to command such a scale of combat in the first place.

"... You refuse no matter what?"

"I'm sorry, even if you stare at me with those eyes, I refuse. I've said it yesterday but Lionel is my retainer. Please stop identifying him as a slave."

The Valkyrie Paladin Corps and Catherine-san changed to a look

of surprise at my unusually firm tone.

“Taking Catherine-san’s feelings fully into consideration, the best concession would be to have round-robin battles. I believe Lionel and others have leadership and actual ability parallel to Catherine-san so I believe they will raise the standard of the entire squad. So if everyone from the Valkyrie Paladin Corps is agreeable, let’s head to the large training ground.”

“All right. I originally wanted Luciel-kun to experience Lionel-dono’s commanding but it was somewhat too abrupt ... it’s certainly my bad.”

It would have been fine if she just said that I won’t have to take up command if she didn’t intend for me to take up command in the first place.

While doing a mental tsukkomi toward Catherine-san, I asked about the sudden decision to train my commanding ability as I was wondering about it.

“Why are you trying to make me command a group the scale of the knight brigade? Does it appear that the Empire is going to attack?”

I would be able to tell from the anxious atmosphere if there was to be a war.

Since Catherine-san has not returned to actual combat duty, it

might be a blank worry, the forces were split into 2 so I could infer that it would be a battle between Catherine and Lionel.

“Of course, we are cautious towards the Empire but the ones we are the most vigilant towards is the demon race. Moreover, Luciel-kun. This is also for your sake.”

I can't comment since I've never actually encountered the demon race before but they do give the feeling of being more troublesome than the Empire. However, the revival of the Demon Lord should only happen 40 years later.

More importantly, the future where I have to take up command of forces ... is it a problem if I can't imagine such a future?

“I can understand why I should accumulate experience by fighting with a lot of people if there's a possibility of fighting with the demon race but why is there a need for me to learn leadership?”

“So that Luciel-kun can become the hope of the people.”

“The hope of the people?”

... I'm not aware of the fact that I've become the hope of the people though? Ah, perhaps it's because I constructed a school?

Or perhaps it's because I have Healing magic, that earned me the nickname Deviant Saint, that can solidify our foundation?

I waited for Catherine-san's words.

“Yeah. Because it's thought that with Luciel-kun's healing magic and barrier magic, people won't die. Morale would be high if an ever victorious army is made by making full use of Luciel-kun's those 2 magic.”

“If that's the case then I don't have to lead either, it would be fine if I am just a part of that army.”

Even if I don't lead that ever victorious army, I would even consider running away so that I won't need to enter the army as a healer so I'd rather not lead a squad.

“Normally that would be fine. But, it is different if viewed from the viewpoint of those who do not fight. The weak seek for those with charisma. They call for a hero (yuusha) if it's a Demon lord, a hero (eiyu) if it's a wicked enemy. Luciel-kun has already obtained the title of hero (eiyu).”

“Are you perhaps referring to the title ... S-rank healer?”

“That's right. By reviewing the price system as an ally of the people, becoming the first human representative in Ienith and the dragon slayer title raised quite a commotion too.”

Nothing good has come from becoming the S-rank healer ... that's not the case so I can't really lament it but if Pope-sama is

involved in this, why do I feel a slight tinge?

Leaving that aside, why do the residents know about the dragon slaying and Ienith representative?

“Why do they know about my dragon slaying and Ienith representative position?”

“It’s famous within the Healer’s Guild that Luciel-kun received Pope-sama’s permission and killed a dragon. Well, that story circulated around the Adventurer’s Guild for one point in time so it was widespread from the start.”

I wonder where exactly does my peace and quiet lie?

” ... I already want to be sent to live in seclusion.”

“Fufufu. Do you seriously think that you can do that?”

Despite Catherine-san’s way of saying it with a bewitching smile, I was shocked as I stared at her and squeezed out my voice.

“Is it impossible?”

“It’s impossible until the threat of the Demon Lord is gone. Even if you were to hide somewhere, you will immediately be searched for and taken to train at the Church Headquarters if you were found.”

“Do I not have human rights?”

“You do. Despite saying it one way or the other, you’ve released the seal on the Fire Dragon and the Earth Dragon right? I saw a delighted expression on Pope-sama after such a long time. Thank you, Luciel-kun.”

” ... Those were all due to the course of events though? Furthermore, that doesn’t answer my question.”

“As long as you face off against your destiny, your human rights is protected. I hope that you become like Sir Rainstar who overcame all odds despite being at the mercy of countless things. Well then, let’s go.”

My arm was grabbed and I was dragged to the large training ground, with all the knight squads waiting in ranks.

Thus ... the curtains were raised for the days where I ... we, fought mock battles with the knight squads repeatedly.

Chapter 132: Revenge Battle After 3 Years

The mock battle with the knights was a bitter experience.

The mock battle between Lionel and Catherine-san was held first.

Lionel, having to use bladeless weapons, chose a greatsword and a large shield as usual and seemed like he intended to maintain a firm defence while aiming for a single blow.

Faithful to her position as the knight's Knight Captain, Catherine-san chose the orthodox one-handed sword and small shield and when her combat preparations were complete, their mock battle began.

... Speaking from the conclusion, the victory went towards Lionel.

Against Lionel's tough turtle-like defence, Catherine chose to make the best use of her speed to implement a hit-and-run style of combat.

If I was the opponent, the attacks would have exhausted me in an instant but it was a speed that Lionel could follow and the offensive power was something to the extent that he could shrug off.

In the beginning, it seemed as if Catherine-san was dominating

the battle. However, Lionel measured the distance and timing and used his large shield instead of his greatsword to send Catherine-san flying, before immediately closing the distance and peppering her with follow up attacks with the flat side of his greatsword to conclude the match.

I rushed over when the combat concluded and applied 「Middle Heal」 to the 2 of them while asking them about their thoughts regarding the fight.

“Catherine-san, are you alright?”

“Yeah. The pain also immediately subsided.”

“How about Lionel?”

“No problems. Since most of the attacks were blocked using the large shield.”

Listening to Lionel’s succinct answer, I recalled something but I decided to ask about it later.

Because I felt that he’s definitely thinking about something similar to me.

“Catherine-san, this is my retainer who I have confidence in.”

” ... Luciel-kun is seriously unfair.”

“Unfair?”

“Former General Lionel, could you fight with all of my squad leaders?”

“If Luciel-sama so desires.”

“You sure are loved.”

“Yeah. Since I’m working towards Lionel and Cathy and Kefin becoming people who are like my comrades, companions and for us to be like a big family.”

Those were words that somehow came out when Catherine-san commented on that but it made me realise how I fully trust and have confidence in Lionel and the others.

“So enviable.”

Catherine-san looked somewhat lonely when she said that.

Lionel’s strength silenced the whole large training ground but taking into consideration the balance of power between Catherine-san and Lionel, it was something that could be predicted.

Lionel who is a rival to Instructor Broad won’t lose to Catherine-san who is both slower and hits lighter than Instructor Broad. The

only way it could happen was if she overwhelmed him with numbers or by crafting strategies.

This time, since it was a one versus one mock battle, she most likely could only rely on strategies. However, the strategy itself was too naive and could not threaten Lionel.

Actually, Cathy can't impart powerful attacks but she emphasizes on speed and has established a perfect hit-and-run style.

Kefin takes his opponents by surprise and he continues to look for methods to absolutely win while catching them off guard so he has a wide range of tactics.

It's only me, with my fighting style of constantly healing while using barrier magic to raise defence, who doesn't have anything that surpasses others apart from my weapon.

Lionel's fight with the squad leader-class, Cathy's fight with the vice-squad leader-class and Kefin's fight with the squad member-class began.

Catherine-san acted as the referee,

“Just like how there's always a mountain higher ... the challenge would be how to establish a fighting style. Although it would be great if there's a method to prevent combat from happening in the first place.”

“Everyone probably thinks about that too but the reality is that it won’t happen, Luciel-kun.”

I heard the voice from behind me and I saw Lumina-san when I turned back.

“Regarding the knights, they are most likely able to achieve a certain level of results when they fight in groups. However, ones who possess the ability to overcome unfavourable situations ... unfortunately, there are none in the Church Headquarters.”

“That’s right ... because to overcome someone who’s strength is above a certain level, one either has to have absolute combat strength or inscrutable stratagems.”

“That’s true ... I hope that you do not feel bad about the words Catherine-sama said earlier.”

“The words she said earlier? I didn’t really feel bad in particular?”

” ... What Catherine-sama said about Luciel-kun’s ability and charisma drawing people to you was all said with the church in mind.”

“Don’t worry, it didn’t bother me at all. Either way, if we ever go to war with the demon race, I would be recruited to the battlefield. Since the number of casualties would decrease if there’s healing magic. However, I get the feeling that Catherine-san seems

anxious?”

” ... Catherine-sama who has returned to the knight corps is an excellent commander and the appropriate one in terms of individual skill and group leadership. However, she’s anxious to improve because she does not possess as much charisma as Luciel-kun and she can’t use Holy attribute magic.”

Judging by the flow, it ends up making me feel as if she’s envious of my abilities.

In a world where I hope for a peaceful life without being bound by the hustle and bustle but end up using healing magic to save the people while at the mercy of fate and having combat strength to the extent of defeating dragons ... causing the attention of the populace to gather towards me.

That’s something that I am very not thankful for.

It’s steadily becoming a straitjacket that binds me firmly.

I wonder what would happen if I lose my abilities?

Now I’m filled with nothing but anxiety.

Maybe I should try to consult Lumina-san?

” ... I also have the experience of feeling envious towards the

ability of others. To live my life peacefully while saving those in need. That's all I wish for so it's not like I hope for a war with the demon race or the Empire soldiers."

"That's the same for everyone. Even so, Luciel-kun, in the end, you still stayed behind. Becoming an S-rank healer at 18-years-old, achieving the feat of slaying a dragon at 20 years of age and becoming the representative of Ienith. It's the same for me as well but Catherine-sama admires Luciel-kun."

"You're exaggerating."

"That's not true. Because she got excited when we reached the topic on Luciel-kun last night. She said that you've really become stronger and more attractive."

The age of my popularity has arrived ... as if.

I could tell just from looking today, it felt to me that the girls looked at me with eyes like elder sisters watching over the growth of their younger brother.

I was happy but I was also unhappy, such a mixed bag of feelings was sprouting within me.

"Lumina-san won't be participating in the mock battles?"

"It's been a long time since I last fought with Luciel-kun so I asked Catherine-sama for the chance."

“I’m a healer so I’ll be using barrier magic and healing magic okay?”

“Of course. I’ll be fighting with the impression that Luciel-kun is a Rock Turtle with hard defence.”

“At the very least imagine me as a human ...”

I smiled wryly as I continued watching over the battles of my 3 retainers.

“How much difference is there between a squad captain and vice-squad captain?”

“It depends on the squad but ... to think that they would lose so one-sidedly.”

It’s most likely this that caused her to be speechless.

He allowed the attacks to continue for a minute, defeats them when exactly one minute is up and gives them advice.

Such a scene repeated itself and after 15 minutes, Lionel had finished defeating all the squad captains apart from Lumina-san.

“The church knight corps have completely lost their will to fight so what is next?”

“The battle would end if we go to the center but ...”

“Then let’s quickly get it over and done with. Anything more would be a waste of time. Lumina-san, once our battle is over, let’s have combat training with the Valkyrie Paladin Corps.”

“I’m delighted to hear those words.”

Thus when Lumina-san and I moved towards the center, the knight corps opened a space.

“Are you sure you want to go with that fighting style?”

Because I was using the same spear and sword dual sword spear technique I used yesterday.

Recalling about the same warning she gave me in the past, I smiled and replied.

“It’s because I have but a single style.”

“Is that so?”

Lumina-san was most likely not convinced but in order to show her my figure that has grown a little, I’ve decided to do my utmost best.

My heartbeat started pumping loudly in anticipation for the revenge battle after 3 years.

After the 3 of them including Lionel finished their battles, Lumina-san and I waited for Catherine-san's signal to start and that time finally arrived.

“Begin!”

The instant I heard Catherine-san's voice, I extended a 「Protect Barrier」 via 「No Chant」 while circulating magical power within my body and I shortened the distance as if propelled forward.

Lumina-san similarly bridged the distance but there was surprise shown on her face.

Towards Lumina-san who took an attacking stance faster than me, I threw my spear without hesitation.

“Ku”

She dodged the spear without difficulty but her posture was broken.

As I took out a shield from my magic bag and held it in my left hand, I slashed at Lumina-san with my one-handed sword but she blocked it with her shield.

“I was surprised, I didn’t think that the display of your fighting style was already part of your strategy.”

“That’s because in my case, if I don’t rely on some clever schemes, in the worst case scenario I would be dead in a split second. In terms of this mock battle, for the sake of my retainers, I must at least show the minimum amount of tenacity.”

“I see. However, this distance is within my striking range though?”

Just as the sight of Lumina-san lowering her posture with amazing vigour crosses my mind, she plunged towards me.

I swung my sword without hesitation.

A look of surprise floated on Lumina-san’s face as she rolled away to avoid the attack.

“To think that you’ve become able to see even that ... what kind of training did you do?”

“Cathy is faster than Lumina-san while Kefin can move without showing any motion or interchange position with a log so I won’t be easily taken down by combat that takes advantage of speed.”

It happened when I laughed and was in the motion of swinging

my sword. The next instant after I faintly heard the voice saying 「Accelerator Boost」, I had collapsed facing the sky.

“Ha?”

I totally could not understand.

It wasn't merely at the level of being faster than Cathy.

I was thrown down by Lumina-san before I even knew it.

It was my complete loss.

“That's my full power. Just like how Luciel-kun has grown, I have also grown.”

I immediately stood up and drew near to Lumina-san.

“It was spoken softly but I heard it. What kind of magic is 「Accelerator Boost」?”

“?! ... I'll tell you about it when it's just the 2 of us so could you not ask about it now?”

Since Lumina-san showed a rare astonished expression and said so after thinking about it slightly, I agreed.

From that battle, I intuitively felt it.

The fact that Catherine-san is the Knight Captain hasn't changed but Lumina-san is the stronger one without a doubt.

If not, there wouldn't be the glint of combat maniac eyes the moment I looked back.

While having the feeling that ... for a couple of days from tomorrow onwards, Lionel and Cathy would want to have mock battles with Lumina-san, I swore to get my revenge too.

Although we're all church personnel, the morale of the knight corps recovered with the first victory and the training continued until the afternoon.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

TL: Wait that's a bombshell, I've always thought that Catherine is the most OP knight in the church but it looks like Catherine is the most experienced and respected while Lumina is the strongest knight instead.

Chapter 133: Distortion Within The Knight Corps

After the training that consisted of only mock battles ended, I thought that they would return to their respective duties in the afternoon.

However, some knight corps who didn't find that agreeable appeared ... or rather, the other 7 squad leaders from the knight corps excluding the Valkyrie Paladin Corps heard that they planned to have training in the afternoon as well and protested to Catherine-san.

I didn't concern myself with that and thanked Lionel and the others for their hard work.

“Everyone, great work. How was it?”

The very first person to answer my question was Lionel who was showing a stern expression.

“To have such terrible squads ... if I attacked during the time when I was still a general with the Empire ... this place would have likely already become a territory under the Elimasia Empire. The salvation now is that, due to Luciel-sama's policy towards adjusting the healer fees, it largely led to the support from the adventurers and the people from the surrounding countries towards the Saint Schull Allied Nations, creating a situation where others can't attack even if they could.”

Apparently, somehow I had unwittingly caused the Empire to resent me once again.

I shall definitely never go to the Empire.

It feels like I would totally get assassinated if I go there.

I firmly swore to myself.

“Certainly, I feel the same too nya. I believe that it was lucky that Lionel-sama didn’t propose to attack if there’s a large collection of people like Luciel-sama around but, without a secret weapon, the Holy Capital will fall into ruin nya.”

The analytical ability of the 2 of them was exceptionally high.

“I feel that the Priest Knights at Ienith were stronger than the knights here.”

Kefin announced.

Then, Lionel voiced out improvement measures.

“Unless each and every one of the knight corps has Holy attribute magic ... either by being able to use magic like Area Barrier and Middle Heal like Luciel-sama or have healers join and support them, they would not be able to win in battles.”

Lionel asserted as he looked distantly into the sky.

As the various squads rushed to the canteen in order, we announced that we would slowly have our meal last. Upon doing so, each and every one from the knight squads who suffered crushing defeat during the mock battles began to come to seek advice from Lionel and the others.

I thought that there were human supremacists among them as well but they approached Cathy and Kefin while holding a respectful attitude so they were not subjected to any kind of discrimination.

In the end, until the dining hall cleared out, I applied 「Area Barrier」 on the knights who requested for it to try out the effects as they told us that they would put in effort immediately while holding Lionel and the others' opinions as reference.

However, I avoided explaining to them the possibility of power leveling healers.

Because I could imagine them forcibly sending healers out to the battlefield and I believe it would highly likely produce a disastrous situation.

If the time comes that they can't use magic, in situations where they are fighting alone, if they can't even defeat weak monsters, the healers would have to bid farewell to their lives.

I'm incapable of making the decision of imposing such risks to the healers is the correct thing to do.

Wouldn't it somehow be alright if healers who use healing magic in adventurer parties are recruited? I did consider that but since there's a discrepancy in the rise of stats, unlike in games, it may be fine at the beginning but as they advance to the latter half, they would be hard pressed when the healers can no longer support them.

I was once again made aware of this world's reality as I thought about this case.

After a while, for the sake of lunch, we headed to the dining hall and Catherine-san was waiting for us there.

Then, she told us that instead of a mock battle with the Valkyrie Paladin Corps for the planned afternoon training, it has been finalized that it would be changed to a combined exercise.

“Because of that, could I have you observe the combined exercise from above?”

Catherine-san directed that at Lionel instead of me. But, Lionel's gaze flowed towards me.

“Meaning you want his advice from watching the exercise?”

I asked squarely instead of Catherine-san's way of beating around the bushes.

In the past, when I was in the church headquarters, the combined exercise only happened thrice. To have this at this timing was most likely because they wanted Lionel to observe and to receive advice from him.

It's not like I don't understand the feelings of Catherine-san who climbed up to the ranks of knight captain at a young age.

It's probably natural to seek for advice from somebody who has higher leadership ability due to seniority and is even stronger as an individual when you're at a loss.

"There are conditions. Firstly, this time, we will not be participating in the exercise and will only be viewing from above. I'll gather the points that Lionel and the others noticed and give it to you after I make a summary of it."

"... Understood. Thank you."

After bowing, Catherine-san dashed out of the dining hall.

After Catherine-san had completely disappeared from the dining hall, Lionel spoke.

"Is it fine to not participate in the exercise?"

“I don’t really know why but I have a feeling that Catherine-san has a lack of self-confidence. If Lionel takes command of the exercise and Cathy and Kefin participate in the exercise, there’s a possibility that Catherine-san may speak of retiring.”

I’ve never seen Catherine-san trying to hang on like that.

It didn’t feel appropriate to ask around if anything happened to her during this one-year duration so I held my head and worried about it.

” ... I don’t think that it’s something to that extent nya. However, trying to find a person to take command may be the right decision nya.”

“What do you mean?”

“The commanding officer grasps the overall picture. However, results and strong charisma are required to consolidate all the squads ... something like that?”

“Kefin seems to have also gotten it ... ”

“Information gathering is Kefin’s forte nya.”

” ... Does it mean that she is incapable of bringing together the whole knight corps?”

As it seemed to be an opinion derived from analysing the situation instead of beastmen intuition, while admiring the intelligence gathering ability of the 2 of them, I asked about it in detail.

“For example when Lionel-sama was the general leading the Empire’s army, he stood at the forefront as he gave out instructions to the respective squads and he personally stepped in when there was an unfavourable situation nya.”

Lionel eluding arrows and magic as he pushed forward on horseback with a spear and blew away all who approached him.

I could easily imagine such a scene.

“I have the same belief of not letting even a single soldier die like Luciel-sama, no, I feel that yours is even stronger than mine. Furthermore, with respect to commanding, since you have no problem leading a small number, depending on the training I believe you will be able to command larger groups.”

“You think I should take command of the church knight corps?”

When I asked the 3 of them, they gave ... unexpected replies.

“If you cannot completely refuse getting taken by the flow and given command, it will turn out like that.”

“The times when Luciel-sama had to think of an answer on your own and ended up getting caught up in it has already happened many times nya.”

“I honestly thought that you had grown when you chose to observe the combined exercise just now.”

My evaluation was low across the board.

” ... I don’t want to be tied up here and I want to quickly head to Meratoni.”

“If that’s the case then we should leave here today after finishing our dinner.”

I understood that I also need to be able to make decisions like Lionel.

Even so, that wasn’t my decision.

” ... I’m thankful for the advice. However, I still have to thank Rosa-san and I think there’s also a risk if we move immediately. That’s why I decided to head to Meratoni a week later. Thankfully, I have not taken the horses out from the Hermit’s stable so we’ll probably be fine.”

” ... That’s when you should go immediately nya. Luciel-sama has a strong sense of duty in strange ways nya.”

“I’d say that’s a good aspect of Luciel-sama though.”

“We’re Luciel-sama’s retainers so we’ll follow your decision.”

Cathy smiled wryly, Kefin gave his affirmation while Lionel summed it up.

We once again set foot towards the large training ground as we had that conversation, sitting on the overlooking seats of the large training ground that Catherine-san guided me to in the past, we watched the combined exercise.

They were divided into Priest Knights and Holy Knights, with Catherine leading the Priest Knights and the youngest among all the squads, Lumina-san, commanding the Holy Knights as they clashed.

There were 4 squads each but combat strength-wise the Priest Knights required double the amount of people.

The battle between the Priest Knight Corps led by Catherine-san in a fan-shaped semi-circular formation and the Holy Knight Corps led by Lumina-san in an acute V-shape formation began.

“What do you think?”

“Normally, it would be advantageous towards the Priest Knights

but, the Holy Knights have higher individual ability and I imagine the difference in commanders would come into play later.”

“I think so too nya ... Also, I understood one point nya. It seems that this time the drill relies on Luciel-sama’s healing magic nya. It was easy to understand with the exercise getting scheduled in a hurry nya.”

The words of Cathy continuing from Lionel felt like they pulled me back to reality.

“It’s just my intuition but the Holy Knight Corps will probably win. The difference in strength is to that extent.”

“Well even so the winner would be the Priest Knights led by Catherine-san ... otherwise, they would probably end with a draw.”

When I muttered that, the 3 of them showed astonished expressions and looked at me curiously.

“How could you tell nya?”

“Lumina-san’s admiration for Catherine-san is one point, the morale effect on the Knight Corps if Catherine-san losses is one point and I don’t feel any fighting spirit from the Holy Knight Corps side.”

The Knight Corps looked strained.

“Seems like you are watching properly.”

“If it’s commanding a squad of that extent, Luciel-sama would also be able to command them sufficiently well.”

“All 3 of you knew right? I can tell because I’m looking from above but if the location changed I’d most likely see it a different way.”

“That’s dependent on the experiences you have in the future.”

Lionel said with a smile but I can’t imagine myself capable of doing that.

Just as we had expected, the combined exercise between the Priest Knight Corps and the Holy Knight Corps ended with the victory of the Priest Knight Corps.

Chapter 134: Abnormal Change To The Labyrinth Of Tribulations

Similar to yesterday I spent the day with everyone until dinner but after dispersing I headed to the Labyrinth of Tribulations on my own.

While feeling relieved that I could use the card meant to operate the magic-driven elevator without issues, I advanced to the entrance of the labyrinth.

“I might find it slightly smelly inside the labyrinth ... very well, I’ll drink Object X and pump myself up before plunging in. My level has not been rising at all recently and I won’t necessarily be going anywhere later anyway.”

While grumbling slightly, I took out Object X and poured it into a jug and began drinking it for the first time after a long time.

The next instant, the taste felt as if it caused my consciousness to retreat far away and I somehow regained consciousness just as I dropped to one knee.

” ... To think that my consciousness would fly away just because of the shitty bad taste ... I’ve certainly become quite weak.”

Muttering to myself, I passed by the shop and opened the door leading into the Labyrinth of Tribulations.

Just as I began threading the Labyrinth of Tribulations, I encountered a ghoul right away and I defeated it with 「Heal」 and picked up its magic stone. However, I realized a crucial point at that moment.

“Why did a ghoul appear on the first floor?”

That’s right, originally, it’s a monster that one would not encounter unless they pass through the 20th floor but now it suddenly came out.

“For it to be like this from the beginning, this is suspicious ... I can only pray that this is not something done by Estia.”

The monsters increased each time I descended to a lower floor. After defeating those monsters as I advanced, I finally arrived in front of the boss room on the 10th floor.

“So if there is a considerable amount of monsters inside, then it would most likely mean without a doubt that the labyrinth has become active once again.”

I opened the door to the boss room and traveled to the center of the room. Upon reaching the center of the room, the lights lit up and the monsters appeared.

“So the number is smaller compared to when I first visited here ... huh.”

Applying purification magic, I immediately ended the combat.

However, the memory of dying ... to be exact the memory of feeling like I was about to die came back to me.

“At that time, I entered here with the condition of not being able to use magic, I’m surprised I didn’t die. I somehow could defeat the boss but if I took even the slightest difference in movement or thinking, I would have already left this world.”

As I picked up the magic stones while vividly remembering the past, I felt relieved that the boss has not respawned and advanced forward.

“I don’t understand why the monsters that shouldn’t normally appear in the upper floors are being revived here. Since I did conquer the labyrinth normally, the labyrinth’s strength should have decreased. If that’s the case then why is it like this now?”

While unable to put my thoughts in order, I further descended into the labyrinth for now.

Swinging the illusionary cane filled with Holy attribute purification magic, the undead turned into magic stones without any suffering.

“I know that the labyrinth the Fire Dragon was in became active because the adventurers touched a trap magic stone. However, this location is off limits to anybody except for church personnel.

Furthermore, it is difficult to conquer this labyrinth as long as a person does not have high mental resistance.”

If that’s the case, then the people who made this labyrinth active are people who infiltrated this labyrinth, have high mental resistance and have high combat ability.

And with the current situation, the most suspicious individual would be Estia.

If she is being manipulated by the Darkness Spirit, what exactly is the aim of the Darkness Spirit ... dispelling the dramatic delusions that were floating in my head, I hastened my footsteps in the earlier floors of the labyrinth ... but my time was up before I could obtain any notable information.

“There a danger I might alert the criminal if I dive any further and if, by chance, Estia is the criminal ...”

The boss in the 30th floor boss room was also not present. Feeling relieved, I decided that it would be better to inform Pope-sama about the situation of the labyrinth becoming active and turned back.

The next morning, I visited Pope-sama’s personal room after breakfast.

“Thank you for clearing out the people.”

I gave my thanks while paying homage as a vassal.

“You don’t have to worry about it. I could not speak with Luciel much the other day. Moreover, for you to come visiting alone would mean that there’s probably something significant?”

As Pope-sama passed through the dividing cloth, I told her about the situation within the Labyrinth of Tribulations I saw yesterday as well as requested for her to investigate Estia’s case.

“Thank you. To be honest, there are signs of ... the Labyrinth of Tribulation becoming active.”

“Wha?! For the Labyrinth of Tribulations to become active ... do you have any clue as to why this is happening?”

From Pope-sama’s shocked reaction, I could tell that this report has not reached her ears.

If Pope-sama is unaware of the activation phenomenon, Pope-sama may not actually know much regarding the labyrinth.

I thought as I began explaining.

“Yesterday, I entered the Labyrinth of Tribulations and noticed that it may have become active ... just that, an example of a similar situation would be the Labyrinth of Astray in Ienith with the Fire Dragon whereby the labyrinth became active after it was conquered.”

“What’s the reason for that case?”

“There’s a trap laid at the very end ... the trap is a large magic stone that, upon contact, it notifies the Evil God and the adventurers were found in an undead state.”

“Does that mean that Luciel speculates that ... somebody had entered the Labyrinth of Tribulations?”

“Yes. There’s a high chance that it would either be my exorcist successor who dived into the Labyrinth of Tribulations lately or Estia who I brought along.”

I was considering if it was alright for me to talk about it but I did consider that she might not be affected by the putrid odor if she was possessed by the Darkness Spirit and the wave of Darkness may have caused the activation.

However, that hypothesis immediately collapsed when Pope-sama gave her counterargument.

“That can’t happen. As long as she is a Spirit Magic Swordsman. If that’s the case, there’s a need to investigate Luciel’s successor.”

“Please wait a moment. Why is it that she can’t enter the Labyrinth of Tribulations if she is a Spirit Magic Swordsman?”

“That’s because I am a Spirit Summoner. Of course, I also hold the blessing from the Spirit King but I am not your fated person, instead, I carry the responsibility of selecting your fated person.”

It can’t be helped that I thought that Pope-sama was my wife candidate for an instant.

It’s a secret that my chest was pounding loudly.

It’s unknown if the pounding was due to shock from hearing the words from Pope-sama or from the Object X that I had been drinking since yesterday.

However, because just by looking at her appearance, she was at her early 20s, extremely beautiful and my type so I ended up thinking like that but ...

While feeling astonished that Pope-sama was more like a mother-in-law existence, I felt a sense of discomfort knowing that Pope-sama held the final deciding right but I stopped my pounding heart and decided to listen to what I have to listen to now.

” ... Is the reason why Pope-sama hold the blessing of the Spirit King because of recognition from your predecessor?”

“That’s right. The Spirit King’s Blessing cannot be inherited if the person can’t use Spirits. I was truly surprised when I saw Spirit Knight appear in your jobs. Since it would be contrary to the intentions of the Spirit-samas if I hand you the Blessing of the

Spirit King.”

So I would hold the Blessing of the Spirit King if I become a Spirit Knight huh?

To be honest, is it my ego for thinking that there’s no need for a blessing if there’s no way to use it?

“Is that why you postponed the promotion that time?”

“That’s right. Of course, it was also the truth that you would not be able to use Holy attribute magic when that happens. Since Spirit Knights can only use Spirit Magic.”

“I’d prefer to remain as I am now if that’s the case.”

My identity is my ability to never die.

If I could not use Healing Magic in this world, I don’t know how many times I would have died.

How would I even let go of such an ability?

“You’re still the same. Leaving that aside, shall we return to the main topic?”

“Yes.”

Pope-sama gave a gentle smile and began speaking, returning to the meat of the story.

“As I hold the Blessing of the Spirit King, I know the approximate location of those who hold the Blessing of Spirits. The accuracy even rises the nearer they are.”

” ... Does that work even if Estia is possessed by the Darkness Spirit?”

“So you knew that Estia was possessed by the Darkness spirit. The reason why I called Estia to the church headquarters is because I wanted the Darkness Spirit to know that I am watching. That’s why it is pointless as I can track Estia when the Darkness Spirit possess her and use Darkness Spirit Magic.”

As expected, Pope-sama also knew about spirit possession.

However, just as I was about to feel relieved, I thought of the worst case scenario.

” ... Would you be able to tell if the Darkness Spirit uses temptation, induction and slavery?’

” ... I won’t be able to tell. That’s bad. There’s a need to immediately verify all staffs. Also, Estia must be taken into custody and Fornoir be brought here.”

Even though she could tell the whereabouts of the person holding the Blessing of the Spirits, she doesn't know the location of the actual Spirit.

While making a new discovery, I released Fornoir on the spot.

“Fornoir is in the Hermit's stable. Should I immediately bring her out here?”

“What!! Seriously? Please let me see Fornoir.”

Pope-sama who became like a child lost the grim feeling she had until then and showed an expression befitting of the word innocent.

When I turned the Hermit's Key, Pope-sama called out into the stables.

“Fornoir!!”

Perhaps because she heard that voice, Fornoir immediately came out from the Hermit's Stable.

Different from usual, Fornoir also approached Pope-sama happily and began licking her.

“It tickles. Fornoir, I missed you.”

Pope-sama began talking as she hugged Fornoir's neck but even though it was in a voice that I couldn't hear, it felt different from the communication light emitted by the Darkness Spirit and Fornoir a day ago.

For a while after that, Pope-sama and Fornoir continued to talk. Then, possibly after their conversation had ended, Pope-sama requested to take custody of Fornoir."

"Could I take care of Fornoir for a while?"

I did not even think of going against Pope-sama's words.

Since I felt that Fornoir also wished for it.

"It seems like Fornoir also wants that so I will visit again at a later date."

"Thank you. Also, I want you to head to where Estia is after the attendants enter. She is currently in Granhart's personal room."

Personal room meaning that torture room huh?

While having nothing but foreboding feelings, after leaving Pope-sama's personal room and telling the attendants that Fornoir is inside, I headed to Granhart's personal room.

Chapter 135: Once Again Into The Labyrinth Of Trial

Arriving at Granhart-san's room, I knocked on the door.

However, as if they could not hear the sound of the knockings, there wasn't any reaction from the inside.

However, I did not call out to the people inside and merely waited in front of the door.

It was merely a gut feeling but a strange sense of tension was being transmitted to me as if asking me to patiently wait before entering.

After waiting for a short while, I once again knocked on the door and this time, I called out.

“It's Luciel. Granhart-san, or Estia, please come out.”

Perhaps because they knew it was me after I knocked and called out, the room door opened the instant I felt the atmosphere transmitted from within change.

It was Estia who opened the door and inside, Granhart-san was pitched forward and face down on the table.

It seemed like he was asleep.

Looking at that situation, I questioned Estia.

“What happened here?”

“That man’s tone was way too strict. I accidentally made him sleep.”

It wasn’t Estia herself, I didn’t imagine that I would be speaking with the Darkness Spirit that possesses Estia right off the bat but I questioned the Darkness Spirit without hesitation as if it was nothing.

“Inform me why you, the Darkness Spirit, possessed Estia this early in the morning?”

“Because that man was persistently questioning Estia and focused on her words whenever she stammered. That’s not an inquiry but an interrogation to find a suspect.”

Certainly, in addition to being stiff, Granhart-san’s inquiry totally ends up as interrogations. He strangely takes on an authoritative attitude so it’s not surprising that Estia got frightened.

“Is that why you made him sleep? It’s just my guess but perhaps not much time has passed since today’s interrogation begin right?”

“I have to take into account Estia’s feelings of going through an interrogation within the same oppressive space since the day after arriving here. I wonder how many times did Estia think of breaking down this room.”

Although I can’t understand why Granhart-san does his inquiries in an interrogative manner but I guess it is reasonable for Estia to want to escape.

Wouldn’t it be better for a female to do the inquiry for a female?

I thought up until that point and then abandoned the idea.

Since the inquiry itself would be in vain either way.

“Ha~. Oh well. Follow me then.”

“Where to?”

The Darkness Spirit gave a curious expression ... actually, it’s Estia’s face but it gradually changed to a look of apprehension as she began staring at me.

“You’ll know if you follow me. I’ll say it beforehand, your sister is also at that place.”

” ... You are strangely understanding. Perhaps you have fallen for ane-sama? Or have you fallen for Estia? Or perhaps ... surely you

did not fall for me?” (TL: Ane-sama = respectful way of addressing an elder sister or a respected elder female character)

I'll admit that I like Fornoir.

But, what's with after that? She's flying way off the rails.

Why's the spirit of Darkness such a pain?

Since I don't have the confidence in using indirect expressions, I took a deep breath and calmly replied.

“Considering the actions we've taken until now, have there been elements that showed that I have fallen for Estia or you?”

“There weren't?”

” ... Please recognize that there are differences between the values of humans and that of spirits.”

Feeling mentally tired, I secretly felt envious of the sleeping Granhart-san as I left a note for him behind.

“Even if there would be another inquiry later, don't worry as I won't let it be done in an oppressive space. Now let's hurry up and leave.”

“You are really considerate. Perhaps you’ve really fallen for me?”

While handing the noisy Darkness Spirit, we once again returned to Pope-sama’s personal room.

“Isn’t this gate-like door the door to the Pope’s room?”

” ... You’ve seen it before?”

“Yeah ... to me, as a spirit, it was a brief moment but there was a human that I could share and have fun with ... it reminds me of such fond memories.”

The Darkness Spirit possessing Estia laughed gently.

Maybe she had strong memories together with Sir Rainstar?

While having such thoughts, I stopped in front of Pope-sama’s personal room and called out after knocking on the door.

“It’s Luciel. I’ve brought Estia along.”

“Enter.”

When the door opened after the voice was transmitted from within, the female attendants left the personal room and we entered as if exchanging places.

There was a horse beside Pope-sama ... personally, I knew but for the female attendants who do not know about the circumstances, it must have been a surreal sight.

I was uneasy thinking about what the female attendants were feeling looking at Fornoir but I calmed myself down and gave my homage as a vassal. At that instant, Fornoir stepped in front of Pope-sama.

I judged that there was danger and wanted to stand in front of Pope-sama but she placed a hand on my shoulder and confronted Estia herself.

“It’s been a long time, Darkness-chan.”

“Ha~, the crybaby Fluna has seriously become a splendid Pope.”

Perhaps because she was possessing Estia, they were conversing regularly in the shared Galdardia language.

” ... So you 2 are normal acquaintances?”

“Of course. All spirits are acquainted with me. However, at that time, I didn’t have enough power so ...”

“Guys who pry into the past are disliked you know.”

“Bururu.”

That’s right ... that’s what I felt Fornoir was saying as well.

To be treated this poorly just for asking if they are acquaintances or not, I decided to only talk about the labyrinth.

“So? I take it that you wouldn’t purposely send Luciel all the way to where I was just to exchange greetings right?”

“I wasn’t lying when I said that I wanted to see Darkness-chan. I’d like you to listen to Luciel for the reason for calling you here.”

Even though she has a mystical voice, I ended up thinking that Pope-sama was somehow cute when she talks for a long time as I conveyed the matter on hand.

“Firstly, do you know of the labyrinth within the church?”

“A labyrinth in the church headquarters? ... I do sense fluctuations of Darkness from the facility that was used in the past though?”

Once the Darkness Spirit closed her eyes, she immediately sensed the Labyrinth of Tribulations.

“That’s right. It appeared slightly less than 50 years ago but thanks to Luciel clearing the labyrinth on his own a couple of years

ago, we were able to perform the funeral for many of our brethren.”

Pope-sama spoke of it happily and the Darkness Spirit looked towards me.

“It’s because luckily for me, only undead appear inside the labyrinth.”

The Darkness Spirit possessing Estia nodded when I said so and for some reason began to murmur.

” ... If that facility turned into a labyrinth, either demon-type or undead-type monsters would appear. If Luciel cleared it then it means it was only an undead-type labyrinth? ... Does that match?”

It looked like the spirit was deep in thought.

Or perhaps she was analyzing it via reports picked up by small particles of Darkness sprites?

While restraining myself from dwelling in delusions, I continued the conversation.

“As expected of a spirit but I also did dive into the labyrinth yesterday. At that time, I noticed that the labyrinth has once again become active. Do you have any idea why?”

“None. I can’t take such careless actions and involve Estia in danger.”

“Don’t you think in this situation it is plausible that a Darkness Spirit entered the labyrinth and caused the labyrinth to become active?”

“It’s true that the Darkness attribute is the magic used by the Demon Lord but it’s not as if it scatters miasma and such!!”

Instead of anger, it sounded more like the suppressed voice of a sorrowful cry from the heart.

” ... Even though I was not aware of that, I’m sorry for causing unpleasant feelings.”

“It’s fine. It’s been passed around among the human race like that since long ago so it doesn’t matter. Rainstar and Fluna’s mother ... Fluna were my only allies.”

Looking at her show the same gentle expression as before, I could surmise that Pope-sama’s parents, Sir Rainstar and the High Elf lady, were very dear existences to the Darkness Spirit.

“Darkness-chan, have you manipulated people lately?”

“I’ve done it to remove memories of me and Estia as well as make people fall asleep but even if I want to toy with their spirit, the suitability of the host has been low so I’ve not been able to do so.

Even if I can do so, I won't do anything that will cause Estia to suffer."

It's said that spirits don't lie but even if she did, Fornoir will definitely be able to see through it.

Taking that into consideration, my successor exorcist becomes more suspicious by far but even if it is a labyrinth that has lost its strength, is it something that can be cleared by a regular healer?

Then, it dawned on me.

"If that's the case, then my successor exorcist becomes suspect but I've thought of one other possibility."

"What is it?"

"There's a possibility that there might be an Empire spy within the church among the healers."

"... Luciel, what do you mean by that?"

"There was a man within Ienith who acted as a spy while being a slave dealer as a front for several years. If you think about it that way, it wouldn't be strange if there are spies from the Empire among the Knight Corps, Healers and staff. Well, the talk about the possibility is totally unfounded though ..."

With multiple people guiding the way into the labyrinth and by equipping magic tools to counter the Wraiths, it won't be impossible to break through this labyrinth.

My thoughts ended up bringing me to such a conclusion.

“I will leave this matter to Catherine. Can I leave the labyrinth to you, Luciel?”

“I don't want to go on my own but if it is Pope-sama's order then I'll do it.”

Unlike in the past, my equipment and level have increased so I can have an actual feel to the labyrinth.

If this was any other labyrinth, I would have rejected it without any thought but I have good compatibility with an undead labyrinth so I accepted it.

However, there was a single difference this time.

“I'll go along too.”

The Darkness Spirit raised her hand.

“I can't bring people unless the Mind Magic used by the Wraith is not effective on them. I'd prefer not to have the friendly fire.”

I expressed that after judging that there was no merit in going together with the Darkness Spirit.

“Such magic do not work on me. Naturally, even if I am not possessing Estia’s body, due to the influence of me dwelling within her, Estia herself cannot be controlled by others.”

If that’s the case, I’d like Lionel and the others to use that too but I remembered that I had to keep the fact that the labyrinth itself is within the church a secret.

I can’t talk about this matter but I wanted to explain it to them using a similar matter so I decided to request for a delay in time we set off.

“I’ll need to inform my retainers that I would be diving into a labyrinth so would it be fine if we carry out the plan after lunch?”

“I’ll leave everything up to you.”

“Yes!”

“It’s similar to Fluna’s request but I have memories in that building as well so leave it to me too.”

“You be careful too, Darkness-chan.”

While Estia act of patting Pope-sama’s head was an act of

disrespect, I had no way of stopping it.

When we were having our lunch, I told Lionel and the others that Estia had nominally become my subordinate.

However, I didn't mention about the labyrinth and instead told them that I had purification ritual training as an S-rank healer.

While looking at the 3 of them happily begin making plans when I ordered them to thoroughly beat the Knight Corps into shape until I get back, I understood that they knew that it was a lie and they were playing along with it.

“Please return safely, I want to quickly have a rematch with Whirlwind.”

“I'll work hard for the sake of the new armor nya.”

“To not put Luciel-sama to shame, I will do my utmost best as well.”

While feeling extremely thankful for their concern, I replied with a simple,

“I'm grateful.”

Since it felt like something warm would flow from the corner of my eye if I continued talking, I smiled as I rode the magic-driven

elevator down to the labyrinth entrance.

From yesterday's experience, the problem would be the 40th floor and 50th floor boss rooms.

In addition to ... would it be better if I remain wary of the Darkness Spirit?

When the magic driven elevator opened, instead of the Darkness Spirit, Estia was waiting there.

“Are your preparations complete?”

“Yes. I'll be in your care, Luciel-sama.”

“Hn? What about the Darkness Spirit?”

“She won't interfere unless it becomes dangerous but she told me to convey to you that she will completely cut off the miasma so do not worry.”

Looking at her give a troubled smile, I wondered why do I feel a sense of guilt budding even though I did not do anything wrong?

“Let's go then.”

“Yes.”

Thus, we stepped foot into the Labyrinth of Tribulations.

Chapter 136: Growth

I went to the shop after getting off the magic-driven elevator but Catherine's successor wasn't there.

"I didn't ask if there was a replacement stationed here and who it was if a successor was chosen."

Since it didn't look like it was vandalized, I thought that it was irrelevant and opened the door to the labyrinth.

"There'll be an abnormal smell from this point forward. Would you like to borrow a nose plug?"

"I'll accept it then."

She didn't look like she planned to use it but Estia quietly received the nose plug.

"I'll pass you the Holy Silver sword and shield. We'll be advancing at a rapid pace so please keep up."

"Okay. I'll do my best."

Maybe Estia was feeling nervous but she didn't continue the conversation.

Conquering the labyrinth with that atmosphere would give me

headaches so I decided to quickly finish up.

“That’s a zombie. Have you seen it before?”

“I’ve seen it before in the Empire when I was young.”

” ... I see. Have you seen ghouls and the like as well?”

“The Empire was also researching on the undead. As far as I can recall, people with high magic aptitude become wraiths, low-level corpses become zombies or mummies while high-level corpses become ghouls and specter knights.”

“I see. Please let me know if you recall anything else.”

“Yes.”

Is the different impression I’m getting from her compared to before because I found out that the Darkness Spirit was possessing Estia? Or is this the real Estia? I didn’t really know myself.

From then on, our conversation stopped.

The stench became worse the further down we descended but our clearing speed was constant.

It only took us about 30 minutes to reach the 10th floor and we

exited the boss room after 10 minutes.

Our respective battles ended almost immediately but it took time to gather the magic stones.

“I feel that the number of monsters has increased compared to yesterday. But, let’s continue with this pace.”

“Okay.”

Estia would reply when I speak to her. However, she’s in a state whereby she only talks the minimum required amount when it is regarding herself.

I thought that it was because she became my subordinate but thinking back until now, she only properly replied when spoken to.

I came to a conclusion that perhaps her personality is one that does not talk about meaningless things.

“If there’s anything you want to say or think that there’s something strange, please let me know. Since there may be matters that I cannot detect on my own but can find out with Estia or Darkness Spirit’s help.”

“Thank you.”

At that moment, she gave a happy expression and I felt that her wariness dissolved.

Is Estia's personality due to her reliance on the Darkness Spirit? After then, we advanced through the labyrinth without any weird tension between us.

“Why are the wraiths appearing from the 20th floor onward? Is it possible that the labyrinth itself is powering up?”

“What appeared in the past?”

“Monsters like ghouls, mummies, ghosts, and skeleton knights. Wraiths should only appear after the 30th floor ... I have a bad feeling about this. I want to quickly purify this place but we'll take a break for now at the 30th floor.”

” ... Understood.”

Just as mentioned by the Darkness Spirit, Estia could advance without being controlled at all even after receiving the wraith's mind interference magic.

I decided to rest in the 30th-floor boss room where the wraith and specter knights appear.

“Are you not tired?”

“They’re mostly defeated by Luciel-sama so I don’t feel much signs of fatigue.”

Estia replied but she still looks languid to me.

If it gets too tiring, she’ll likely change with the Darkness Spirit but ... no signs of fatigue?

“You’ve been fighting too and we’ve been walking continuously so you should feel slightly tired right?”

“Only civilians would tire from that. My level is decent and I’ve not worked myself recently so ...”

Has she not accustomed herself to a comfy lifestyle? That remark was the same level as those by Kefin.

“For me perhaps it’s because my status has risen compared to the past? Or maybe thanks to my daily training? I’m surprised that I’m not struggling in battle. Estia, do you want to fight a little more?”

“I don’t mean it that way ... how much time did you take in the past to reach this point?”

With that question, I tried recalling my past labyrinth capture. If I remember correctly, it took me close to half a year to reach this point. Since I essentially spent a year and a half diving into this labyrinth.

” ... I believe I took a couple of months. Before coming to this labyrinth, I was preparing myself in Meratoni and after coming to the church headquarters, I experienced real life threatening combat ... I was substantially weaker in the past compared to now.”

I naturally broke into a smile thinking back to my nostalgic memories.

“You’ve really worked hard.”

“It’s slightly different from working hard. I was merely able to overcome the ordeal with the help of luck to overturn my foolhardiness.”

I can’t say that it’s all thanks to luck but if Great Luck-sensei didn’t trigger, I wouldn’t be standing here now.

“Even so, you did put in effort right?”

” ... I wonder?”

At that time I was desperately trying to survive so I didn’t consider it as working hard.

I’ve been putting in effort to learn the minimum necessary skills but I wonder, after all these years since coming to this world, even

if it's only slightly, have I grown as a person?

It felt like that question became a wedge that wrapped around my chest.

After resting, we entered the 31st floor and the undead rank rose once again.

Multiple large existences like the red-eyed specter knights and wraiths stalked the floor.

“I may not be able to aid you so if it gets dangerous, try to evade. Conversely, if you have room to spare, please protect me.”

“Understood.”

After replying, Estia walked towards a specter knight and easily defeated it.

While feeling astonished with Estia's combat ability, I told myself that I am myself and that there's no need to compare as I faced the monsters.

“It's amazing how you can behead the monsters without a magic sword. It's a feat that is impossible for me.”

I swapped between Illusionary Sword and Illusionary Cane as I defeated monsters with purification magic and with a magic sword

and advanced while retrieving the magic stones.

“Even monsters that are supposed to only appear after the 40th floor are beginning to appear. Since I don’t know what would appear ahead, let’s have our meal on the 40th floor and take a nap. We’ll clear the labyrinth at one go after our nap.”

” ... Understood.”

Without struggling in battle or falling into traps, we advanced until the 40th-floor boss room at the usual speed.

At that point, Estia asked a question herself for the first time.

“Luciel-sama, is it usually this easy to advance in labyrinths?”

“I think it’s normally impossible. You feel so now possibly because we’re advancing without getting lost. Having the map I drew the previous time I dived into this labyrinth plays a huge part. Furthermore, we have prepared measures for the monsters ... for example, measures such as those against losing combat capabilities by falling under the wraith’s mind interference might play a large part as well.”

“Now that you mentioned it, we’ve been advancing without getting lost at all ...”

I wonder what reason caused Estia to suddenly talk to me. It’s not a problem but it did bug me.

“Why did you ask?”

” ... Am I being useful?”

It’s the same words as before but I didn’t know why she has such a strong desire to be useful.

“I’ll be honest. I believe I certainly could reach this point on my own. However, since I’ve hardly used my magical power, I’m thankful.”

“That’s great.”

Estia gripped my hands and smiled happily but I didn’t feel anything in particular from that.

“I’ll be troubled if you loosen your guard now. I had the experience of spending half a year in this 40th-floor boss room previously. I look forward to Estia and Darkness Spirit’s strength to not have a repeat of that.”

While urging her to stay focused, I talked about my own experience and focused my mind on the battle with the boss.

“Half a year ... I’m surprised you survived.”

“I thought I said it was because my luck was good?”

“So it was the truth ... I thought it was a joke or ...”

“My principle is to not say meaningless lies. Let’s focus and enter.”

“Yes.”

I also felt that Estia was taking notice of me.

However, I could not ascertain as to which extent was her true feelings. But, aside from deciding to be a retainer or not, I felt like she wanted to not fear people.

Then, when the door to the 40th-floor boss room opened, standing there was ... the Specter Knight King.

” ... To think that we would meet again.”

“Wha, what strong intimidation it’s emitting, that’s not a normal monster.”

Even though it’s just a Specter Knight King, the intimidation aura was close to that of Lionel.

I thought to myself that I was not wrong when I considered in my heart the previous Specter Knight King as my second instructor.

Looking at Estia, she was trembling a little.

“You can’t fight when you’re trembling right? Leave this guy to me and stay ready at the back.”

“No way, to challenge such a monster alone ...”

“That’s why I’m challenging it. I’ll make it clear to myself here whether I’ve grown or not.”

Holy Dragon Spear on my left and Illusionary Sword on my right.

I now have equipment that is incomparable to the ones I had at that time.

Even just judging by level, my level has reached 3 digits so I should have become stronger.

Even so, my body was still about to cower in fear against the Specter Knight King’s intimidation.

It’s a worthy opponent that I now want to clash with headfirst.

“Church Headquarters S-rank healer Luciel, for the sake of gauging my own growth, I shall challenge master in battle.”

A single beat later, I challenged the Specter Knight King to battle.

Slipping past the greatsword that could make me believe that it could annihilate anything with a single hit, the second strike's spear thrust appeared in front of my eyes.

The first attack pattern has 5 types and they have few variations.

After repelling that powerful spear strike, the greatsword came swinging back.

My body still firmly remembered the patterns.

Receiving it with my magical power-infused Holy Dragon Spear, I diverted it such that it doesn't strike my body and aimed for the open neck while rotating my body.

The Specter Knight King defended that with its spear and made a gesture to counterattack with its greatsword.

However, the Illusionary Sword sliced through the Specter Knight King's spear without any resistance and while maintaining its full speed, beheaded the Specter Knight King.

“Even though I was so happy that tears were about to come out when I finally won after battling for half a year, this time I won even before a minute was up.”

My body remembered the attack patterns.

I certainly recall the time when I went against the Specter Knight King.

Making my body remember by confronting an opponent that I would not be able to beat normally again and again ... beating into my head and body the feeling of wanting to survive and converting that into my driving force.

I felt like I understood why I was so desperate at that time, frantically racing forward to advance. That's definitely something that the Specter Knight King taught me.

I realized that I have created myself in a way that is more than what I needed.

“Luciel-sama, why did you confront such a monster headfirst? Or rather, so Luciel-sama has been going easy all this time. I didn't know that you were that strong.”

The radiantly smiling Estia's words felt like she saw through the current me but I also replied with a smile.

“I merely won against the past me. Well then, let's have our meal.”

While laughing at Estia who had a blank look, I once again experienced the feeling of being alive after a long time.

Chapter 137: Motive Of The Darkness Spirit

After finishing our dinner, I applied purification magic on myself and Estia and instructed her to take a nap.

Estia obediently followed my instructions and laid down.

Since Estia had not shown any act of betraying me at all until now, my trust in her ... was still not there.

The reason why was because Estia only showed normal human expression when talking but during combat, she was always expressionless.

It was as if she doesn't have any feelings or maybe her usual feelings were actually all made up? It was because I felt that way.

"After our nap, we'll have a meal and then proceed with conquering the labyrinth. Do you have anything you want to ask?"

"... Nothing in particular. Well then, I'll sleep over at that side."

While maintaining the smiling mask pasted on her face, Estia took her nap around the center of the room.

I napped while leaning my back against the wall beside the door leading to the 41st floor.

As one might expect, I don't have the nerves to use my Angel's Pillow to have a deep sleep in a defenseless state near a party that I do not trust.

Around the time I was beginning to doze off slightly.

Estia suddenly stood up and I felt her draw closer to me so I pretended to be asleep while being on guard.

"I know you are awake. Luciel."

The one who spoke was the Darkness Spirit who was gradually releasing her pressure.

"... You've changed?"

"So you're awake after all. Estia just fell asleep so I possessed her."

Why did she possess her after Estia fell asleep this time?

It gave rise to more questions but I questioned her for the reason why she didn't possess Estia and show herself until now.

"And so? To go through the trouble of getting Estia to challenge the labyrinth and to possess her on this floor, what's your aim?"

“I only wanted Estia to understand that there are humans who are not driven away by hearing the words ‘Darkness Spirit’. My aim is only that.”

The Darkness Spirit gave a sad look.

From that expression, I felt that instead of the Darkness Spirit, Estia herself was being avoided.

” ... Instead of rarely showing her feelings, it’s more like she lacks feelings? Or perhaps there’s an invisible wedge that controls her own feelings to the limit? Such that she always wears a mask on her face ... that’s what I’ve felt this time?”

” ... Greater than expected deductive ability. Estia’s darkness is definitely more deeply rooted than what Luciel imagines.”

After hearing my words, the Darkness Spirit’s expression gradually changed from the sad look to an astonished one and now it was a smile.

However, until now I still don’t know the Darkness Spirit’s real intention.

Well, it didn’t look like she’ll obediently tell me anyway ...

Leaving that aside, I had a question.

“Well, that doesn’t matter to me at the moment. Leaving that aside, for Spirit Magic Swordsman, are they able to form overlapping contracts with spirits holding other attributes? For example, even if there’s no aptitude for the attribute?”

“It’s possible. Well, of course, there’s a trial but it’s not like it’s impossible.”

If that’s the case then Estia is capable of obtaining more strength than she has now.

If it wasn’t a double-edged sword then I would have welcomed it with open arms but ...

“I see. Could I ask one more question?”

“Of course.”

” ... I’m just curious but why did you go through the trouble of becoming a slave and moving to the Dwarf Kingdom?”

The Darkness Spirit’s calm expression hardened in an instant.

” ... What do you mean?”

“Don’t play dumb. With a constitution to not fall into status abnormality, drinking poison or sleep pills won’t have any effect. Furthermore, in the event of an illegal slave contract, with you,

the Darkness Spirit, around, the kidnapping itself won't be able to happen in the first place."

" ... Even though you look like you're bumbling around, you're actually thinking shrewdly."

" ... Mind your own business. So?"

Although she's completely treating me as an idiot, for now, I'll just endure and ... give a single word of complaint to the words she said.

" ... She was looking for a means to escape the Empire. I granted her wish. I can't tell you the reason but that's the truth. I swear that I will not oppose the church headquarters where Ane-sama and the Pope are, as well as Luciel."

If that was a lie as well, I would lose all trust in spirits ... I felt that level of persuasiveness.

"Alright. I'll trust you, the Darkness Spirit, on that ... I can't give any sound advice but Estia doesn't trust or rely on people right? No matter how hard it is to believe in people, only Estia herself can resolve the problem."

"Are you saying to leave it be even if it's painful?"

"Estia is not the only side laying the bridge when it comes to human relations. If you, the Darkness Spirit, interferes, won't

everyone forget about Estia like she was just an illusion?”

” ... I wasn’t aware ... I understand.”

The Darkness Spirit nodded and walked back to the center where she was sleeping previously.

“Was I slightly too conceited? Leaving that aside, I wonder what was the reason why Estia wanted to escape from the Empire?”

Since I won’t be able to know without asking her even if I think about it, for the time being, I slept while sitting ... but, because I always sleep with Angel’s Pillow, I could not fall asleep while in a sitting position.

” ...To think that it would have such an adverse effect.”

With no other choice, I decided to meditate but ended up thinking about things after we conquer the labyrinth and could not focus at all due to my idle thoughts.

By the time I realized, quite some time had passed and I sensed the indication that Estia had woken up so I opened my eyes.

“Have you had enough sleep?”

Perhaps because she did not expect any sound from me, Estia gave a reaction that seemed like a ‘ハッ’ sound effect would not be

out of place, causing me to laugh out.

“Were you awake the whole time?”

“Yeah. I ended up thinking about things after we conquer the labyrinth so I couldn’t sleep.”

“Sorry.”

“Why are you apologizing? Shall we eat?”

“Thank you.”

I’ll try helping her by improving her passive attitude to everything little by little.

“Have some independence. I’ll leave the meal times to Estia. Whichever time you say you want to eat, I’ll follow that timing.”

“Eh?”

“I feel that Estia should have slightly more of your own feelings. I’m thinking that this might act as a trigger for that. Either way, we’ll be clearing the labyrinth in half a day so I’ll try testing Estia’s judgement.”

I gave a naggy look and decided to act meddlesome.

” ... Will we be having our meal in this room?”

“We can have it in the labyrinth passage as well. Of course, we can only have it leisurely in this room.”

” ... Is Luciel-sama feeling hungry?”

“Not really.”

“That’s great. If that’s the case, shall we have a simple meal before proceeding?”

“Alright.”

I don’t know if this approach will work but I want her to build the bridge in human relations on her own from scratch.

While having that thought, I took out a table and 2 chairs as well as bread, soup, and salad that would make up a light meal from my item bag and set them up.

“Is this alright?”

“That magic bag is amazing.”

“I can’t give this to you. It would be great if we find one

somewhere someday.”

” ... I agree.”

I tried saying it in a slightly mean way to test her but her reaction was weak.

Or perhaps she just splendidly let it slide. While feeling slightly embarrassed at myself for doing that, I apologized in my heart for causing the resulting delicate atmosphere.

After we finished having our breakfast, we proceeded into the labyrinth.

“From here on out, I no longer have maps that show the shortest distance. However, the location of the traps are clearly listed so please be careful as to not get led into a trap.”

“Yes.”

I set off after Estia gave her reply.

Although it’s a labyrinth, since I’ve walked through it once, I found the stairs without getting lost.

Although there are monsters that are at the level that can threaten us, contrary to my expectation, it was still slightly too early for them to appear so it was quite reassuring.

“It doesn’t look like there will be a problem if this is the case.”

“Yeah. In the past, I had to hug this barrel of Object X and run.”

“Object X? That smelly thing? ... Why?”

“I was trapped for half a year so my food rations were reaching the end. Even if I wanted to turn back, I could not turn back so it was the only option I could think of when I thought of the shortest method to escape. It was a method that didn’t involve fighting but took the shortest time and the shortest route.”

” ... If that’s what happened then you don’t know what appears on this floor?”

“Yeah. Or do you want to carry Object X and walk?”

” ... It’s alright. Let’s hurry ahead.”

She weighed the strength of the enemies against Object X in an instant.

She definitely did, since I noticed Estia’s right eyebrow twitch the moment I mentioned Object X.

I don’t know if it’s fine for me to observe her so well but for some reason, I thought that I’d like (her?) to enjoy living. (TL: It’s

ambiguous if the author meant that Luciel himself wanted to enjoy living or Luciel wanted Estia to enjoy living.)

We arrived at the 50th floor without any incidents as we talked but when we advanced further, a mass of monsters appeared before our eyes.

” ... Can we win against that? Or wouldn't it be better if we detoured around them?”

What appeared in front of our eyes was a mass of Specter Knight Kings, Wights, and King Wraiths.

“Put on your nasal plug.”

I pulled out Object X without hesitation and opened the lid.

“It stinks and makes me feel nauseous.”

Estia received damage because she hesitated to put on the nasal plug but as a result, the swarm of monsters dispersed.

“Hurry up and put on your nasal plug. We'll advance this way.”

I hugged the barrel of Object X and began walking.

“But Luciel-sama is capable of defeating the crowd of monsters

just now right?”

Estia, who was holding her nose, asked about my actions but I taught her about the reality.

“It’s impossible. The Specter Knight Kings are especially impossible. We’ll be avoiding combat. If you hate wearing the nose plug then let’s quickly clear the labyrinth.”

Under my instructions, Estia advanced while staying in front of me and we advanced through the labyrinth.

She might have a reason why she doesn’t use the nasal plug even though I passed her one but there shouldn’t be a problem since I used purification magic.

Furthermore, I took into consideration that it was for a girl so while it is a nose plug after all, it’s shaped like a nose mask so it doesn’t look as if it’s there when the person is wearing it.

In a way, I also did not clearly state my reason for avoiding the battle.

Remembering the dreadfulness of the Specter Knight King when I applied Extra Heal on it caused my body to tremble. (TL: Reference to Ch33)

Even though I know that the Red Dragon is stronger and has more presence than the Specter Knight King, no matter how

strong I become in this world, I swore to myself that I will only never apply healing magic on the Specter Knight King.

Given that I don't know if it would be defeated even if I deployed 「Sanctuary Circle」 just now, I chose the option to not fight since it could be resolved without fighting.

The 2 of us arrived at the end of the labyrinth, the 50th-floor boss room, while in silence.

I told Estia to prepare to plunge into the boss room as I shut the barrel of Object X but since she looked like she was feeling way too unwell, I applied purification magic and 「Recover」 and observed her condition.

” ... Will that monsters swarm return if we wait here?”

“Yeah. The undead fancy the living after all. I'll follow Estia's timing to step into the boss room.”

After I said that, Estia took a few deep breaths, looked at my direction, nodded and replied.

“Let's go.”

“Okay.”

I applied 「Area Barrier」 on myself and Estia, pushed the door to

the 50th-floor boss room and entered.

Chapter 138: Dignity Of The Knight Corps

Three Healers, 3 Priest Knights and 1 Paladin.

We discovered a total of 7 people who were turned into undead.

“That’s more than I had expected. Are they still conscious?”

Even though they’ve been turned into undead, I was admiring the fact that they did not break their formation and voiced it out.

“If you, the S-rank healer, didn’t suddenly return, we would have been awarded a special promotion for being killed in duty ... Luciel-sama, curse you.”

Isn’t that completely unjustified resentment?

I thought that the representative who would speak to me would be the Paladin but instead, it was the exorcist who was my successor.

“You’re the healer who took over my role of exorcist ... are there others who are not happy with me as well? But I am surprised you guys could reach all the way here?”

” ... It was expensive but we got our hands on a magic tool that could prevent abnormal states. Furthermore, we bought it in this Holy Capital too.”

I guess the guy talking happily is the leader?

While I continued to talk with them who had turned into undead, I began weaving my magic circle chant.

“I see. The fact that you guys have turned into undead means that it is alright for me to assume that you’ve met with the Evil God right?”

“You knew about it?!! Are you the Evil God’s henchmen?! How dare you ... this is?!”

“Sanctuary Circle. I’ll return your undead body to a normal one and hold a burial.”

I slowly activated 「Sanctuary Circle」 while I was talking.

“You coward. The final battle should be by crossing swords and winning. That should be what the Knight Corps taught.”

The vitality of my successor exorcist and the 2 other healers gradually restored following the activation phase.

However, only the man dressed in Paladin armor retained his strength and consciousness from resentment.

I understand his words of wanting to fight fair and square but I

wanted to welcome him as a human in the end.

That was the form of respect I follow. And I enlightened him, the Paladin, about the dignity he held.

“As an S-rank healer, if I do not stop you all who have turned into undead by any means possible, your consciousness would slowly thin and in the end, you would lose consciousness and hurt your compatriots, are you alright with being such an existence?”

For them who have turned into undead, what are they asking of me?

Even though I hold the title of S-rank Healer, are they hoping that I could defeat knights from the knight corps who hold overwhelming power?

Did the Healers want to exchange blows using magic?

Thinking up to that point, I naturally vented out.

“Either die as an undead or die as a human. Make your choice.”

While thinking that I didn't sound like myself, I gave them their choices.

The healers returned to human and died while the Paladin and Priest Knights told me that they wanted to fight.

Cladding my whole body with magical power, holding the Holy Dragon Spear on my left and the Illusionary Sword on my right, the 1 versus 4 battle began.

Just in case, Estia acted as the referee and the safety net and I intended her to intervene if it became dangerous but I was confident that it won't reach that stage.

“Then let's begin!”

Without concern for the Knights who were beginning to release black mist from their bodies, I approached at full force and slashed with my Illusionary Sword and pierced with my Holy Dragon Spear.

Without any tricks or feints, I tore through their shields and armor.

Because I knew that they no longer felt pain after becoming undead, I split their bodies in half.

It was precisely an instant kill and the situation ended one-sidedly.

“Are you satisfied?”

“To think that it would be so one-sided ...”

I knew that they were mortified but since they've turned into undead, their tears didn't flow.

“The dead ... once you become undead, your cognitive and physical abilities likely take an extreme dive. If you all were human, the one to be defeated would have been me.”

“Just like you've said ... as expected, you're not an S-rank Healer for show.”

The Paladin seemed to grasp that his own body was not responding and gave a slight nod.

” ... I didn't want to die.”

“So I'll disappear as an undead without being able to even return a blow huh?”

“Even though I became a Priest Knight after so much trouble ...”

The other Priest Knights were crying.

“From here, I will let you all pass away as humans. I pray that you all will be reborn as knights that will protect the church in your next life.”

I activated 「Sanctuary Circle」 and they disappeared after being

wrapped in light.

After they disappeared, I retrieved the items that they left behind as usual.

“Let’s return once we recover their magic stones and equipment. Do not touch that magic stone there no matter what. You’ll be turned into an undead if you touch it.”

I warned Estia.

” ... Nevertheless, so we’ve cleared the labyrinth just like that. It’s good that the final boss monsters at the end were weak.”

Estia did not identify those people as former humans or church personnel at all.

She only saw them as the enemy ... While feeling troubled in judging if it was because she was being pragmatic or that she’s lacking common sense, I conveyed to her their impression on me.

” ... If they turned into Specter Knight King and Wight prototypes after dozens of years later, there would be no guarantee of winning. Moreover, I told them as well but if they had their living body then I can fully imagine the possibility of me losing.”

“Is that so?”

“Yeah. Since I am still weak.”

After we finished picking up the magic stones, a magic circle floated up in the center.

We confirmed that and cleared the labyrinth.

By the time I realized, we had returned to the first floor of the labyrinth.

“We’ve cleared the labyrinth with this. Let’s head to Pope-sama’s personal room.”

” ... You’ve finally cleared it huh.”

” ... Why did you switch at this timing.”

The Darkness Spirit replaced Estia.

“You did well noticing it. Estia is bad with places with a lot of people so I swapped places with her.”

“That’s convenient ... perhaps it takes your all just to swap with her in a labyrinth?”

” ... That’s not true. You’ve sure put a lot of thought into it.”

Looking at the anxious Darkness Spirit, I hypothesized that perhaps the magical power for spirits to manifest in labyrinths is not sufficient?

“Well, it doesn’t matter. Let’s go to Pope-sama’s personal room.”

“Okay.”

I’ve left Fornoir to Pope-sama’s care since yesterday but I wonder if she’s alright?

Such a thought floated into my head as I immediately walked towards Pope-sama’s personal room.

“Pope-sama, it’s Luciel. I’ve returned after clearing the labyrinth.”

“Enter.”

When I opened the door, the female attendants left at the same time.

While paying homage as a vassal, I began reporting about the labyrinth ... about the boss room at the deepest 50th floor.

“Good job the both of you. Let me hear about what happened.”

“The cause for this incident is due to the church personnel clearing the labyrinth after all. Like I’ve mentioned previously, I imagine they turned into undead after they touched the trapped large magic stone and caused the Evil God to appear.”

” ... To think that the Evil God truly exists ... If father was alive then we would somehow be able to deal with it but ...”

Pope-sama was lamenting but I couldn’t do anything about it.

Since I was also deep in thought.

Thinking if I could be like Sir Rainstar, as a Hero, as a Sage and as a Summoner, prepare some kind of measures.

I was regretting not talking with Sir Rainstar more at that time.

However, feeling that this wasn’t the place to talk about Sir Rainstar, I talked about my plans for the future.

“For the next several days, I will enter the labyrinth and confirm that the labyrinth is gradually losing its strength. If it seems fine then I will follow my plan and head towards Meratoni.”

“Understood. I’ll be lonely being away from Fornoir but you’ll probably come back so I’ll endure it.”

That lonely expression gave rise to a question within me.

Has Pope-sama ever left this room?

It was enough for me to question that.

But I also knew that I still can't decide on what to do.

“Moreover, I've confirmed with my eyes that Luciel possesses a spirit's blessing this time. I'll be able to check on your condition like this and we're able to stay in contact with the magic communication bead as well.”

“Yes.”

I hope that Pope-sama doesn't become something like a stalker.

“That's all for my report. Darkness Spirit, do you have anything to say?”

“Fluna, Ane-sama and I have still not been able to save you. But we will definitely save you so please wait for us.”

“Thank you, I'll be waiting.”

A seal? Or a curse? Or is there another reason?

What does she mean, saving Pope-sama?

I didn't ask about it.

Fornoir was listening to this time's report beside Pope-sama and after she licked Pope-sama once, she motioned a request for me to open the Hermit's stable.

She entered the Hermit's stable without any resistance even though she hated it so much in the past.

"... Then, Pope-sama, I will excuse myself ... ah, Pope-sama, I have one wish."

"What is it?"

"I wish to go to the Adventurer's Guild tomorrow and heal for the charge of 1 silver coin?"

"Okay. Is it the Whimsical Day that Luciel set up?"

"Yes. It's been about a year but I wish to return to my foundations."

"I'll recognize it as a special case. Even so, as the party who established the guidelines, properly play your role and announce it as a demonstration for healing."

"Yes, Your Holiness. I will serve to the best of my ability."

“Umu. I pray that you will continue to do your best for the sake of the church.”

“Yes!”

After we exited Pope-sama’s room, several Knights were waiting for us to exit.

“What happened?”

“There’s a great number of people who immediately need treatment. Please quickly come to the large training ground.”

There are other Healers as well right!

Suppressing my feeling to shout that, I ran towards the large training ground.

Chapter 139: Role Of A Leader

If your companion asks for healing, you would probably do your best to help.

Then, if it is between the retainers of a big shot and your companion, which would you prioritize to treat first?

When I arrived at the large training ground, almost all of the members of the Knight Corps had collapsed on the ground.

I saw that Lionel and the others had not collapsed but they were on their knees.

“It looks like you guys are fine.”

When I approached while feeling relieved, I noticed that Catherine-san had collapsed in front of Lionel and Lumina-san had collapsed in front of Cathy and Kefin.

“Lionel! What’s the meaning of this?”

Lionel reacted and looked back to my voice and gave a relieved expression.

“Thank god. Luciel-sama, you’ve returned. You could please treat these people first?”

Lionel postponed explaining about the matter and urged me to treat both Catherine-san and Lumina-san who were covered in blood first.

Naturally, I would have treated them even if he didn't say anything but looking closely, even Lionel and the others were quite beaten up as well.

“You all come into range as well, is just a 「Area High Heal」 enough?”

” ... Catherine-dono has multiple broken bones.”

I could infer that the equipment he borrowed wasn't good enough so he couldn't defeat her immediately.

If that wasn't the case, I find it unlikely that Catherine-san would be able to cause Lionel who has great combat compatibility against her to be so beaten up.

” ... To be safe, I'll use 「Extra Heal」 too. For Lionel and you guys too.”

Cathy and Kefin didn't say anything and I understood that they were in a condition where they could barely stand so after I applied 「Area High Heal」, I subsequently applied 「Extra Heal」 too.

“I don't know what happened but everyone has lost too much blood so rest for awhile. I'll be helping the Healers heal the Knight

Corps members who you guys most likely sent flying. Incidentally, was there anyone who lost a body part?”

“Nothing like that happened.”

“We’re not that weak nya.”

“There wasn’t a need to do so.”

I could almost see the scorn the 3 of them had for the Knight Corps.

Even I have not been looked at with such eyes.

From the situation, I couldn’t judge if it was because of just how far their skills have rusted or if they’ve been having easy training that can only look like they are playing around.

Indeed, half of the members of the Knight Corps have been sent flying and the Valkyrie Paladin Corps were not an exception.

“Is the reason why Lionel and the others are looking at them with scorn because of this weakness? Or because of their laid back attitude towards their job ... I’ll definitely ask later.”

I continued treating them.

Including the Valkyrie Paladin Corps, they thanked me but none of them told me when I asked them about what happened.

After finishing all the healing, I returned to the center and Estia was greeting Lionel and the others.

“Were you introducing yourself?”

“Ah, Luciel-sama. Erm, why am I here? I should have been at the labyrinth up until earlier?”

While feeling irritated at her for saying the no-go word out of the blue, I decided to complain to the Darkness Spirit the next time she comes out.

“What labyrinth are you talking about? Leaving that aside, were you greeting Lionel and the others?”

“Ah, yes. I don’t know about the plan for the future but I did inform them about the plan for me to follow along to Meratoni as well.”

I let the talk about the labyrinth slide and continued the conversation.

” ... I see. Lionel, Cathy, Kefin. I apologize but this is a request from Pope-sama. Estia will be following us to Meratoni.”

“Well, I should be able to look forward to it more than the Knight Corps who pretend to be friendly with each other.”

“Estia is quite strong so we’ll be able to train properly nya.”

“She’s stronger than I am ... maybe, but in situations like these I have better situation assessment capabilities.”

They didn’t forget to show contempt for the Knight Corps. It’s rare for the 3 of them to show this much emotion.

“Most probably Estia is stronger than you nya, Kefin.”

“Now you’ve gone and said it.”

“You want to go nya?”

“No, I’ll get you back someday so remember this.”

“I’ll look forward to it nya.”

I smiled while remembering that the 2 of them have been hitting it off well lately but I can’t just observe Cathy and Kefin joke with each other all day so I called out to the 2 people who were still on the ground.

Since I’ve noticed that they’ve woken up since a while ago.

“Catherine-san, Lumina-san. My retainers have been discourteous. I don’t know why such a thing happened in the large training ground and why I happened to not be present but I apologize.”

” ... Was this matter under Luciel’s orders?”

Lumina-san was the first to reply.

Even so, orders?

“I didn’t give any orders in particular? Did something happen?”

” ... It’s fine if you don’t know about it.”

Lumina-san hung her head down and kept silent.

Even though I looked at Lionel and the others, they didn’t say anything.

However, thinking back to yesterday ... I have a feeling that quite some scolding is in order.

” ... If they did something, it would all be for my sake. Since the 3 of them are not people who would move for the sake of their own benefit ... While looking at yesterday’s combined drill, for a combined drill by the Church Headquarters in the Holy Capital, I

was also made to think if the knights would actually be able to defend the church given such a lukewarm performance.”

While feeling surprised at my own astonishingly sharp tongue, the 2 of them also did not imagine such words from me and their bodies flinched.

Maybe having me say that was that shocking or that the same exact words were said by my 3 retainers as well, the 2 of them remained gloomy.

” ... Luciel-kun, wouldn’t it be better if you just led the Knight Corps instead?”

Just when I thought that the silent Catherine-san spoke, she really proposed for her to relinquish the captain seat of the Knight Corps.

Lumina-san was looking at Catherine-san with an unbelieving expression.

“Of course there’s no way I can do that. I have my own mission and the Paladins and Priest Knights were gathered as the church’s Knight Corps to protect the church right? Then who will protect Pope-sama?”

The 2 of them didn’t answer ... or to be precise, Lumina-san was peeking at Catherine-san’s reaction.

Individually, Lumina-san was already the stronger among the 2 and with regard to commanding ability, she has also become better than Catherine-san in leading.

For the Catherine-san who has lost herself, Lumina-san allowed her to win even to the extent of holding back in hopes that she would regain her self-confidence?

However, that does not help anybody and only causes adverse effects.

I told Catherine-san the little take home I got from Ienith.

“I believe that it is wrong to think that if a person is strong individually, he will not have the ability to lead a group. If a person doesn’t have leadership ability, then he can think of other ways to contribute while polishing his leadership ability. If not, he would not be able to have subordinates and retainers.”

” ... By any chance are those words pointed at me?”

I sensed intense anger.

Her feeling angry means that she’s mortified right?

If that’s the case, it means that she actually wants to remain as the Captain of the Knight Corps right?

I continued.

“It’s my opinion but if Catherine-san can’t be the Captain of the Knight Corps, it is fine to resign. Once that happens, the chain of command will become a mess and a rift will form between the Paladin Corps and Priest Knight Corps once again.”

“That won’t happen. It won’t change that Lumina and the other squad captains are at the top. This couple of years, at least once a month, we’ve been doing drills so the relationship is not as bad compared to the past.”

Catherine-san gave a sad expression but I’ve fallen into the same trap before.

For example, when I was in Ienith, when the honey factory was discovered and in regards to the school as well, I thought that as long as the form was there, I won’t be needed to be on the top.

However, whenever I think back about it, Haniru from the Hacchi tribe’s words would float in my mind.

I was giving them strength because I was at the top.

I arbitrarily thought to myself that Catherine-san is definitely the same too.

Which is why, for Catherine-san and Lumina-san who have been helping me, I’ll try to lend a hand so that they don’t need to suffer

anymore.

“Is that really so? As far as I can see, everyone from the Knight Corps is concerned about Catherine-san.”

“What are you saying? General Lionel said the same thing too but what do you know from just a few days?”

Beside her astounded expression, there was a face giving me support.

I weaved my words with the help of the support from that expression.

“It’s not just a few days, I’m saying from the stance of knowing about this church Knight Corps since the time it was revived. Lionel may know about it because he is knowledgeable about real battlefields but ... even if Catherine-san’s individual combat ability is not the best, even if your leading ability is not the best, there is a reason why Catherine-san is the Captain of the Knight Corps.”

” ... What’s that?”

“I can’t put it into words well but if I must choose, it is popularity. As long as you are standing on top, it will be okay to just follow your instructions. You make it possible for them to think that way.”

“That’s not the case. Anyone can do it if they do it long enough.

Even during the drill, didn't Lumina-chan lead the Paladin Corps well too?"

It sure is troublesome when elites get hurt.

She's completely stubborn on her opinion.

Originally, even in an elite organization, at least one person would always shine and possess the gravitational force to pull in the weed souls but ... I can't demand for something that is not there and ... it is a waste of time if it is useless even after I tell the truth.

"That's how it seems right. But in actual fact, they lost to the Priest Knight Corps led by Catherine-san right? That's your answer."

"... I can't understand what you are trying to say."

"The whole drill proceeded in a way such that Catherine-san would not lose."

"For what reason? Lumina, answer me."

"That ..."

The scene where Catherine-san was outraged and Lumina-san cowered ended up happening.

Instead of a difference in rank, it's due to match fixing, or rather due to holding back, it was probably hard for Lumina-san to speak.

“It's because she wants Catherine-san to remain as the Captain of the Knight Corps. I also think that it is better if Catherine-san continues to take on the job of the Captain of the Knight Corps.”

” ... The Captain of the Knight Corps job?”

Her expression changed from a glaring look to a quizzical one.

“The job of organizing the 8 squad captains. To talk with each of the squad's squad captains and summarize them. You will be fulfilling your responsibility as the Captain of the Knight Corps just by doing that.”

When I was in Ienith, I only talked with the top management and my interaction with the employees were to the extent of greetings only.

Even so, it went along well because the captains and tribal chiefs that I gave orders brought together the people below them.

When I have thought up to that point, Lionel spoke.

“Indeed. After that, those respective squad captains just need to instruct their platoon leaders or squad members and the

organization will be able to function. Not everything is your job.”

The things that Lionel has noticed should be more than what I have but he may once again be testing me here.

I ended up having such a thought.

“If it’s during a drill, I think that it is Catherine’s job to observe from above and correct anything you notice. Of course, nobody will feel troubled if you raise your individual combat ability as well.”

“Was I too eager?”

“Yes. Since you are one of the few who has the trust of Pope-sama, please pull yourself together.”

If the role of the Captain of the Knight Corps unexpectedly drops on me here, I’ll definitely be overworked to death.

Furthermore, since I ran away from the bloody battles in Ienith so that I won’t be involved and returned here, I’d like to spend my life with slightly more leeway.

” ... My role huh ... Lumina ... sorry. I may not be reliable but please support me.”

“Yes! Please continue to lead everyone as the Captain of the

Knight Corps from now on as well.”

Smiles floated on both their faces.

It helped that Catherine-san was obedient.

Now that I think about it, Catherine-san may be an elite but she has descended from the role of Captain of the Knight Corps once in the past and she may have experienced plenty of setbacks before.

Perhaps I should actually thank her for not vacating the seat of the Captain of the Knight Corps this time.

“After having talks once more, I’ll rethink the method we hold the drill. Luciel-kun, this time, I’ve been helped by you once again.”

“I’m happy I could be of use but I only conveyed the feeling I got from watching that drill. Moreover, I’m sorry for saying such conceited words.”

“Luciel-kun’s feelings reached me perfectly.”

I felt relieved as the clouded expression she had until before was no longer there.

“I think Catherine-san can have slightly more confidence in yourself.”

” ... Thank you, Luciel-kun.”

Catherine-san walked closer to me with a smile and I felt a soft kiss on my cheek.

Without getting flustered, I thanked her with a smile.

“My pleasure.”

I’ve just drunk Object X so the effect has not kicked in yet.

In my previous life, I would never be able to be so calm.

“Ara, you weren’t shaken at all.”

“But I am delighted to be kissed by a beautiful person like Catherine-san.”

As if a person like me about the age of 40 after rounding up if including my previous life would be soaring over the sky over receiving a kiss on the cheek.

“Ooo~ Lumina, come here.”

“Yes. What is it?”

“Could you perhaps give Luciel-kun a thank you kiss? Since it didn’t look like he’s amazed when I was the one doing it.”

Why did she compel her to express her gratitude?

Furthermore, that shouldn’t be something you order someone to do.

“No, there’s no way she can do such a thing even if you tell her to. Right? Lumi ... ?!”

“This is to thank you for your help this time, it’s definitely not because Catherine-sama told me to ...”

Lumina-san with her faintly dyed cheek was extremely cute.

The sweet smell that tickled my nasal cavity and the sensation that her lips left behind caused butterflies in my stomach for the first time since I came to this world.

If this was a honey trap, I’ve definitely fallen for it.

While having such thoughts, I lowered my head and thanked her.

“Thank you very much. Gochisousamadesu.” (TL: Gochisousamadesu = Something Japanese say after a meal, roughly translating to: Thank you for the wonderful meal/feast.)

All the members of the Knight Corps witnessed this and I was laughed at from the shadows for the next couple of days.

Especially how the Valkyrie Paladin Corps excluding Lumina-san took it as their material to tease me with and how it should have been where Lionel and the others came to my aid but instead hopped on to the evil practices, these would all be a talk for another day.

Chapter 140: Visible Position

I was fed up of being teased in the church headquarters so I retreated to the Adventurer's Guild. Then, I sighed in the canteen.

“Ha~”

“So depressing. What happened? For Deviant Saint-sama to sigh like that?”

I told the Adventurer's Guild guildmaster Granz-san about this time's incident.

“Has Guildmaster Granz been suddenly kissed before?”

I looked back to the sound of dishes crashing and breaking and saw the Adventurer's Guild vice-guildmaster Milty.

Having her cheeks dyed red from receiving my gaze, she retrieved the broken dishes in an instant and disappeared into the kitchen.

“Was I misunderstood? Or, is Milty-san currently married?”

” ... Well, just leave how Milty is aside.”

It seems like various things happened here.

” ... So, what are you troubled by?”

“It’s just something recent but a girl kissed me as a form of gratitude ... I wasn’t particularly conscious about it but the surrounding people arbitrarily made a commotion about it.”

Granz-san lightly took out a cup of warm tea.

I brought that to my lips as I began talking about this time’s incident.

“Hou. So Luciel-dono is thick-headed huh ... well, if the other party’s identity is alright then isn’t it fine? Since it was strange that nothing happened until now.”

Granz-san patted my shoulder as he said that with a smile.

“Thick-headed ... even now I’m not really conscious about it but is that really the case ... ?”

In the first place, I don’t have any intention of being thick-headed? Or rather, I’ve been seriously thinking about how to survive and just have not had the leeway to think about anything else.

Taking that into consideration, who would fall in love with me?

There's no way such a thing would happen.

I've not done anything that would make people like me ... I think.

“Do you not like the person who kissed you?”

I totally forgot that I was in a conversation.

Lumina-san ... she's a beauty, has a dignified atmosphere and her smile is extremely attractive.

However, if I'm asked if I have any feeling of love towards her then I think the answer is no.

“No, I like her. But rather than liking her as a woman, my recognition of her as a person worthy of respect is stronger. I'm thinking if that would cause my feelings to soar from receiving her kiss of gratitude ...”

That's surely my real feelings.

“It sure is youthful to be troubled by feelings of love. If you can't decide on whether you like her or not then isn't it fine to just remain as per usual for now? Why are you so troubled over it?”

” ... Well, it's complicated.”

Other's would think that I'm running away if I immediately go to Meratoni but the surrounding people will make a fuss if I go talk to Lumina-san.

Are they adolescent children to make a fuss about a gratitude kiss! I wanted to shout that but as expected, it was bad to receive a gratitude kiss in front of almost all the members of the Knight Corps.

At this point in time, it would be a no if I am asked if I'm attracted to Lumina-san.

I felt my heart pound but it had subsided soon after.

Thinking about the future, I'm also worried if I would be able to not only meet a girl who is related to dragons and spirits by chance but also to meet one that I can happen to fall in love with.

I've never developed love for a person with such calibre and good personality like Lumina-san even in my previous life.

"Is waiting for this chaotic feeling of mine to sort itself out a feasible plan? Or would I be able to understand this feeling even if I talked with Granz-san, this is troubling me greatly."

"Oi Luciel, you're voicing out all your thoughts."

"Eh? I voiced it out?"

“Yeah. From sorting out your feelings to some rude words aimed towards me, everything.”

” ... Sorry.”

Even though I’ve not done anything guilty, why do I have to be so troubled by it?

I do slightly regret not minding the TPO ... but, if I avoided the gratitude kiss, Lumina-san would probably be hurt deeply. (TL: TPO = time place occasion.)

Well, it was done by the time I noticed so I wouldn’t have been able to avoid it though ...

“Well, it doesn’t matter. Leaving that aside, what did you come here for today?”

“Today, I was thinking of having a change of mood so I asked for permission from Pope-sama and I will be holding the Whimsical Day for the first time in a long time.”

“That’s what I thought. I was surprised because I didn’t expect to be asked for love advice. Ah, that’s right. Once you’re done I’ll give you my new recipe.”

“Thank you.”

There are still many dishes that I've not made but I fundamentally love cooking so I was overjoyed.

"I'll gather the patients so you can go ahead and head to the basement first."

"Okay."

I headed to the Adventurer's Guild's training ground.

The Deviant Saint Whimsical Day was held for the first time after a long time so not only those with injuries, patients complaining about lower back pain and joint pains gathered one after the other.

I treated them one by one and sometimes treated a group of them all at once.

Then, by the time I realized, Lionel and the others were guarding me.

"... When did you guys appear?"

"From the time when Luciel-sama was having love talks with the guildmaster."

Lionel answered with a smile.

“At least let me know. So nasty.”

“I’d like if you don’t sulk about it for so long nya. That attitude is the reason why everyone is teasing Luciel-sama just for a kiss nya.”

“What do you mean?”

From the way Cathy said it, it seemed like Lumina-san was no longer being teased for it.

“A kiss between the church’s top Healer and a Paladin would become a hot topic but Lumina-dono is no longer getting teased.”

” ... Why?”

Kefin shook his head side to side and replied.

“Probably because she overbearingly replies with “It’s just a gratitude kiss?” and it leaves the impression that it would be bad if you say something bad and offend her.”

Is Lumina-san the handsome guy or am I acting like a sissy, I wonder which is it?

” ... If that’s the case then why am I being teased?”

“Probably because you’re younger and you don’t carry around an intimidating atmosphere nya.”

Doesn’t that mean that I’m simply being made light of?

“That just makes me feel like I’m being bullied?”

“It can also be said that you’re approachable and have high favorability rating.”

“Kefin, you sure are a pretty positive thinker.”

“I’m just telling the truth.”

Ha~.

I definitely want more time to think.

What I took away from it was that I’m not consciousness of how people regularly see me.

I was shown that either way after getting teased from getting kissed.

I don’t feel that this is what being approachable means and maybe it would be better if I bore myself with more dignity.

... I have no choice but to thoroughly train my mind and body ...

“It’s a different topic but we will be heading to Meratoni tomorrow.

“””Yes!”””

The 3 of them just followed my orders without asking for a reason.

After we had our lunch in the Adventurer’s Guild’s canteen, I gave Lionel and the others free time until dusk.

After I told them that, they alternatively had mock battles with the adventurers while discovering talents and guiding them as they remained to guard me tightly.

“Aren’t the 3 of you absurdly calm?”

“We’ve been living our life in a disciplined army since long ago nya. In the past, I did look down upon the adventurers but now I’ve come to think that their life might be fun too nya.”

“I see. It’s about time, I have somewhere I want to go so you can return.”

“Call me if you need me nya.”

Cathy leaped and headed back to where Lionel and Kefin were at.

“This life is not bad ... huh. It’s true that the Saint Schull Allied Nations is really nice to live in but ... is having Lionel and the others as my retinue really the right thing to do?”

I headed towards the magic tool shop while wondering to myself about the usual topic.

“Hey Luciel, you forgot something.”

Just as I was about to step out of the Adventurer’s Guild, Granz-san passed me a collection of new recipes.

“You can distract yourself with cooking when you’re troubled.”

Granz-san who was smiling broadly was overflowing with a gentleness that was unimaginable from his usual hard-faced expression.

” ... Luciel-sama sure is popular with the uncles huh.”

“Uwa!! Estia?! When did you pop up?”

“Since about when the dishes were broken at the canteen, I was observing you from a distance.”

What ... that's totally a phrase that a stalker would say.

“Estia came to the Adventurer's Guild together with us.”

She came along with Lionel and the others but I totally did not notice her at all, where exactly was she?

” ... Where were you? I didn't see you?”

“I erased my presence and hid. But no assassins aiming for Luciel-sama came so I was bored.”

” ... I see. Thank you.”

“Don't mention it.”

“Granz-san, allow me to come by again after a few months.

“Sure.”

Feeling drained all of the sudden, I prayed that there were products that could soothe me at Lily's magic tool shop as I left the Adventurer's Guild.

Chapter 141: Empire's Reincarnated Individual

The girl Ryina who I predict to be a reincarnated individual.

I stepped towards the magic tool shop she operated ... but the shop itself was no longer there.

One needs to pay taxes if they are in the Holy Capital. But, they would hardly demolish a whole shop just because you don't pay your taxes.

Furthermore, with how much I've contributed by buying her products, I don't think that her shop would go bankrupt.

Since that's the case, a possible reason would be that she didn't think that there was any further need to continue staying here.

“The magic tool shop that I frequent should be here but ...”

As I intermittently let out those words, Kefin immediately went out to gather information and he returned within just a few minutes after confirming her whereabouts.

“Apparently she felt that this place was too cramped and shifted. Her current location seems to be within the Holy Capital as well and I've confirmed the location so shall we go?”

“Ah, please lead the way ... I’ll ask since nobody seems like they are going to tsukkomi it but why are you grinning like that?”

I could tell just by looking that he’s talked with several people.

But, this was the first time I’ve seen Kefin grin like that.

“I’ve been taught while growing up that beastmen are detested in the Holy Capital. Even more so when one’s a half-breed. I thought that I would be causing Luciel-sama inconvenience when I’m together with you. However, the people on the street know that I’m Luciel-sama’s retainer and they’ve listened to me since a while back and told me to come back to them if I have any troubles.”

I didn’t think in the slightest that Kefin would think about such a thing.

Is this what they meant by being thick-headed? ...

I was angry at myself for forgetting about that aspect, even though I knew that people’s pain are not limited to superficial injuries.

“Sorry. I didn’t take that into consideration. It’s great that Kefin did not get discriminated against.”

“Please don’t apologize. I’m regarded favorably definitely because of Luciel-sama.”

“Thank you.”

Not only Kefin, even Cathy who was listening to the conversation smiled similarly.

Feeling that I was saved by Kefin’s positive attitude, I conveyed my gratitude.

Proceeding along the path Kefin heard of, we were led to not the slums district but a corner of the main street.

I honestly thought that it was a considerably good location where rich people are likely to gather.

“It looks like this is the place.”

” ... The lot area is roughly about 2 times larger and it’s more prominent compared to before but she’s just using the original building? Well, it doesn’t matter.”

I also thought: Didn’t I do quite a good deed since the shop’s grade rose due to the amount I invested previously?

Lionel entered the shop first. The figure of the speaking golem I saw the previous time I visited was there as well.

Lionel poised himself when he saw that but it wasn’t an object

that would be alright to break so I asserted myself.

“There’s no need to ready yourself to destroy it. This golem was in the shop the previous time I visited as well. Well, it’s considerably cleaner compared to the previous time I was here.”

『Welcome to the Magic Tool Shop Commedia.』

Although the broken robot speech didn’t change at all, looking around, the line-up of products have changed drastically and there were plenty of new products on display.

“Welcome. Welcome to the Magic Tool Shop Commedia.”

I heard the voice from the back and I saw that there was a shop assistant present to assist customers.

There weren’t many but it also looked like there were shoppers as well.

“It looks like it’s flourishing compared to before. Incidentally, all the magic tools that I’m using like the magic stove were all bought from this shop.”

“Hou. If that’s the case then it might be a treasure trove inside huh.”

“Depending on how they are made, Paula and Rician might be

able to make them nya.”

“Let me know if there’s anything you want to buy. I’ll buy it.”

“”””Yes!””””

... I heard 4 voices overlap.

While I was shopping around the shop looking for products that interested me, the girl that attended to the customers came over.

“Welcome. May I know what are you looking for?”

“Yes. However before that, is the owner ... Ryina-san if I remember correctly? In?”

Her look changed to an inquisitive look upon doing so.

Does she oppose to me calling the owner?

“Ryina-san?”

“Yes. I have something that I must ask her so ...”

” ... Please wait a moment.”

I said with a smile.

The shop assistant glanced at me dressed in my white robe before opening a door with an 'Authorized personnel only' sign and entering.

“Do you have something to do here?”

“Yeah. There’s a little something I must investigate. Well, it’s not anything dangerous though.”

After a while, the shop attendant girl and a bespectacled girl dressed in white and with a changed hairstyle of semi-long hair from her previous shortcut, Ryina, appeared.

“Welcome. What can I help you with? ... Eh? The church personnel who bought a lot of my products in the past?”

“Yeah. I’ve returned after about a year to the Holy Capital so I came to visit thinking if there are any new magic tools.”

Perhaps because she was wondering if it was somebody else instead of me but her grim expression transformed into a soft expression.

“It’s a rude topic but have any church personnel visited until now?”

I erased my smile and tried asking to gather information.

“Yes. But church personnel are not all good people.”

... Was she threatened?

Or extorted?

“Is that so? I apologize if I made you recall unpleasant memories.”

“Ah, please raise your head ... because the people behind you are very scary.”

Lionel and the others were releasing their intimidating aura.

I felt that it was really amazing that they could read what would be desirable to me even more than myself.

She might have her own interest in mind when she said that but maybe I should report this to Pope-sama.

“Ah, sorry. I resulted in causing you to feel ill at ease instead.”

When I lightly bowed and continued to the main topic, she looked like she also felt the same way and asked.

“So what business do you have today?”

“I would like to have a description of a single item, or a written description if it is hard to explain, it’s this item, do you know anything about it?”

I said that and handed Ryina a ring.

“Ah, that is ... Sir, roughly what position do you hold within the church?”

Although the owners are already dead, if a common man did such a thing, wouldn’t they become an enemy of the world?

If it’s a means to protect herself from threats then did she ask to properly understand and manage the risk?

“Position huh ... well, something like there’s nobody above me apart from Pope-sama?”

” ... If that’s the case, I have a request.”

After she confirmed my words while touching her spectacles, she looked relieved and came out with a request.

It was most likely equipped with the function of a lie detector.

“What is it?”

“Please make it such that those people can’t come to this shop.”

I felt that she was seriously asking given her expression of appeal.

“I understand. However, I have an exchange condition. Could you tell me what this is?”

” ... That is an item that increases tolerance to abnormal status in exchange from continuously expending magical power. However, it was robbed from me when it was still at a prototype stage.”

“That’s unfortunate.”

I returned 3 of the ring of increased resistance to abnormal status to her.

I’ll keep the remaining 4 for the time being.

“Are you sure you can return this to me?”

“Yeah. Well then, to pull ourselves back from this dreary topic, do you mind giving me an explanation for all your products?”

“Okay. Where would you like to start?”

“I’ll leave the order to you. But, I intend to buy everything that I need so please explain all the products without leaving any out.”

After I said that, Ryina and the shop attendant looked at each other and the product tour began as they alternately gave explanations.

“Thank you very much. Well then, we’ll immediately start with this ...”

Immediately after Ryina began explaining about a product, I recalled and asked.

“Now that I think about it, weren’t you working on spectacles that could use the appraisal skill? Did you complete it?”

“I couldn’t. It seems like my effort is still not enough.”

“I see. Well, I just thought that it would be convenient if we had that ... please continue with the explanations.”

Thus the explanations resumed and I steadily decided on the items to purchase.

I informed the shop attendant-san of the number of the items I wish to purchase but there was one person who was purely enjoying this shopping experience.

It was Estia.

During the product explanations, unlike her usual thin presence, she was standing in front and asking questions.

Then, I was stunned by Estia's bombshell remark when her tension was raised.

That question was suddenly shot out when we were about to finish shopping.

"Amazing. They're all items that I have heard of before. Perhaps Ryina-san is a reincarnated person or an existence that can be called a transferred person?"

Ryina who was talkatively describing her products until a while ago completely stiffened.

"About 5 to 6 years ago in the Empire's facility, a certain Alice-neesan came by and told me that she was a transferred person who obtained a new body."

"... Where's that person now?"

"... She was killed. That's why I didn't want to stay in the Empire anymore."

The spoken fact didn't only impact me and Ryina, Lionel who

was a general and Cathy who was a spy at that time also doubted their ears.

She openly spoke about the fact about her being a reincarnated person.

Rather than that, why didn't the empire make use of the information from a reincarnated person?

Even though they have such strong financial power and treatment technique.

“I see. She was killed ...”

Even I could see Ryina's disappointment.

“Alice-neesan told me various things. Things like large bundles of metal that fly in the sky and boxes that one can use to immediately find information. Many of the other things that she explained to me are similar to the products here so ... I thought that perhaps Ryina-san is also the same.”

Airplanes and ... PC? It's the first time I've heard of the death of a reincarnated individual but it is quite taxing mentally.

Ryina was trembling slightly.

” ... I see. Certainly, I might be a transferred person but what

about it? Does that knowledge change anything?”

The sudden question and talk about reincarnated individuals were rare in its own way so I also listened intently.

” ... She told me that in that world, there exist many books written with stories. She told me that among those, there were some that drew about love between men and forbidden love but it was the world view of the world.”

“””Ha?”””

The serious atmosphere up until then completely changed.

Was Alice-san perhaps a fujoshi?

Or maybe her level in that field was high?

I ended up feeling like I don't really want to think about it.

“Because Alice-neesan told me that, I became interested in that world's world view ...”

” ... That's not the norm.”

I completely agree.

“Is that so ...”

“Yes. There certainly are people who love to read those stories but it is too high a hurdle for regular people.”

“I see ... If that’s the case, Ryina-san knows about the flying mass of metal and horseless carriages and can make them?”

A sudden bombshell.

Answering this question would be the same as saying you’re a reincarnated individual.

She’s either a natural airhead or maybe she just acts that way normally but,

as expected, Estia is a mystery.

” ... I don’t know if I can make them but the idea sounds interesting.”

“You’ve not made them yet?”

“Yes. In the first place, my skill level is still not enough to make such things that come out in fairytales.”

Even if Ryina is a reincarnated individual, can’t I also capitalize

on her technique and imagination?

Even though I should only be thinking about that, I asked before I realized.

“Is Ryina-san interested in developing products? Do you have any goals or aims for the future?”

Looking at me, she answered without hesitation.

“Yes. I do.”

From then on, I ignored Estia and continued the conversation.

“Could you tell me about it?”

I only spoke to her a little after that.

Then, without revealing to her that I was a reincarnated individual, I resolved to win her over to become my companion as well.

Chapter 142: Sorting Of Feelings

Two days after shopping at Ryina's shop, I came to Lumina-san's personal room.

“So what did you want to talk about?”

Face-to-face with Lumina-san who served red tea to me, I seriously conveyed my current feelings in words.

“Yes. If you'll allow me to say it in a straightforward manner, the gratitude kiss that time ... I was extremely happy. Especially these 6 years, I've not gone through even the 'L' of love in dating so even if it was to convey your gratitude, I was seriously delighted to receive it from somebody like Lumina-san.”

“It's embarrassing to hear that combined with your sudden visit.”

Looking at her slightly dyed cheeks, it can't be helped that I honestly felt that she was cute.

“Sorry. But, I thought that I should properly tell you ... I respect Lumina-san. I hold good feelings towards you.”

” ... Should I take that as you like me?”

I felt that I saw some anxiety and something else in Lumina-san

as she stared into my eyes but I won't deceive her.

“Yes ... however, to be honest, I cannot judge if it is due to the feeling of love or that of respect and trust as a companion.”

” ... So?”

“I don't know what Lumina-san feels about me but I would like time to face what my feelings for Lumina-san are.”

That's my honest feelings.

There's a possibility that it's just a misunderstanding but I want to be sincere towards Lumina-san so there's no helping it.

“Fufu. Luciel-kun is still as earnest as before. I didn't imagine that you would come report about it in detail.”

“I think it would have been fine if I remained in the Church Headquarters but I'll be heading to Meratoni to relearn various things under Shisho so ...”

“I see ... since that is the case, it's fine for you to firmly train yourself. If you win against me then I'll listen to what you say.”

My delusions surged but if my goal would be to win then I have a feeling that I can't waste a single second.

” ... My expedition this time is planned to take 2 months so I’ll visit when I come back.”

“Umu.”

Lumina-san who was smiling with a slightly bashful expression was fascinatingly beautiful.

I saved Lumina-san’s expression in my brain and this time headed towards Pope-sama’s personal room.

I obtained permission to enter Pope-sama’s personal room and Pope-sama spoke the same time the people finished leaving the room.

“So I believe you’re here this time regarding Lumina? I think it’s fine but I wonder what the spirits think.”

While feeling disheartened that that was the first words she spoke, I told Pope-sama about the reason I visited this time.

“I didn’t come to talk about love, I plan to head to Meratoni tomorrow so I came to greet Pope-sama before that.”

“What, why so serious? So boring.”

“Where did you hear that topic from?”

“That’s a secret.”

“I see. Yesterday, together with Rosa-san, my retainers and I went shopping and she mentioned that she bought gifts for Pope-sama as she has been in your care every day ...”

“Ha~ okay. Yesterday, Rosa-san came by after returning from shopping with Luciel and others.”

“Well, I guessed so.”

I thought that it was the top brass of the Knight Corps, Catherine-san, who brings such reports to Pope-sama’s ears but in fact, it is Rosa-san who manages the hygiene and health of the Knight Corps who does such work.

It was Cathy and Kefin who grasped the information that she apparently visits Pope-sama’s personal room to hand in such reports.

” ... I’ll seriously spend some time and think about Lumina-san. To go out or not to go out together is given but it likely involves danger to life from here on out so ...”

“You’re seriously earnest ... Fine, I’ll handle the procedure for the entry to Independent Magic City Nelldal.”

“Really? Thank you.”

I felt my tension rise.

There's the desire to go to a city in the sky but the desire to learn attack magic was stronger.

With that, it will make it even harder for me to die.

Just by having that thought, some leeway was born in my heart.

It was such a feeling.

“I'll be troubled if you die off easily and if it goes well, you may be able to become an existence similar to my father, that's what my intuition tells me.”

Pope-sama said so with a laugh as she looked at my state and I also thought that Pope-sama was beautiful as well ... I felt like the effects of once again drinking Object X was beginning to surface.

” ... I will devote myself to the task. I'll contact Pope-sama when I arrive at Meratoni. I plan to return to the Holy Capital 2 months later but I'll report in if I would be late.”

“Umu. Be careful.”

“Yes!”

I completed my simple greetings and left Pope-sama's personal room.

Next, I headed to the training grounds where Catherine-san was looking beaten up.

“Lionel, aren't you overdoing it?”

“Cathy was the one who did that. It seems like Catherine-dono and Cathy's ability are close. Since Cathy is as you can see.”

” ... Totally beat up huh. Eh? Where did Kefin go?”

“He left in a hurry to call for a Healer.”

Just how much does Kefin worry for Cathy ...

I drew a magic circle with 「Magic Circle Chant」 and activated 「Extra Heal」.

“To be able to control it so precisely from this distance ... you've sure placed in considerable effort.”

“Effort huh ... I merely didn't want to die at that time. That was all that I thought about. So it might be more accurate to say I was pressed due to necessity instead of effort.”

“It’s because Luciel-sama has the talent for putting in effort and for persevering.”

Lionel said to me with a smile but I could endure only because I was supported by my 「Proficiency Appraisal」.

I answered with that only in my heart.

“Please help me convey that we’ll be departing tomorrow after the morning training is over and we’ve had our breakfast.”

“Understood.”

I informed Lionel and began walking towards the Labyrinth.

The monsters that came out in the Labyrinth of Tribulations returned to starting from zombies.

The number of monsters has decreased to the extent that even if I walked around the first floor, I might or might not encounter any monsters.

“It looks like it will be alright for any healer capable of chanting purification magic to serve as the exorcist.”

I proceeded deeper into the labyrinth.

The number of monsters I encountered in the 10th-floor boss room was in double digits but there weren't any monsters that grouped up.

"I'm able to instantly clear the boss room with purification magic but ... if it's like this then there's a possibility that the same thing will happen again."

They may not know that I cleared the labyrinth while I was level 1 but the knights from the Knight Corps know of my ability.

In the mock battles with Priest Knights and Paladins, I would win if magic is allowed but for pure technique matches, it would go either way.

If a person like me can clear it solo, with preparation against the smell, miasma and mental interference from the Wraiths, without the bosses every 10 floors, the labyrinth may be conquered once again.

When that happens, who would be able to stop it ... my troubles didn't look like they would run out.

I decided to not clear the labyrinth and I turned back after reaching the 30th floor.

I collected the magic stones from the defeated monsters and there was a person at the shop when I left the labyrinth.

What's surprising was that Granhart-san was the replacement for Catherine-san.

Granhart-san also likely didn't know that I was there and I felt like he made an unpleasant face for an instant.

"Thank you for your hard work. Why is Granhart-san at this shop?"

"This is my current duty. I could only think of this location when trying to investigate the individuals who went missing right before Luciel-sama cleared the labyrinth lately."

"I see. I entered up to the 30th floor but I didn't meet anybody. Do you need me to make a pledge?"

"... There's no need. I have already performed an investigation on you ... how much hard work you put in to reach that position or what you achieved after reaching there, I've investigated everything."

I lightly withdrew from Granhart-san who said that with a snort and rode on the magic-driven elevator after bidding goodbye.

"It's scary in various meanings but if that person remains in that position, I should be able to go back with a peace of mind."

While feeling relieved, I had dinner with Lionel and the others and to have a restful sleep just for today, I used Angel's Pillow to sleep.

The next morning, we departed for Meratoni.

Book 9: Fate's Options

Chapter 143: First Encounter Of Bandits?

After we departed, we traveled down the highway towards Meratoni without any issues but when evening came, an abnormal event happened to Estia.

This time, Lionel and I led in front while Kefin steered the carriage as the coachman.

Inside the carriage, Cathy conversed normally with Estia while keeping an eye on her.

Then when evening came, just when I thought that it was about time we searched for a village to stay in, Estia suddenly jumped out of the carriage.

Before I had a chance to move, Fornoir apparently made the choice to approach her and started running in Estia's direction.

It was a behavior unlike a horse even though she's a horse but I trust her as my partner so I picked up on her intention and we began chasing after Estia.

“Don't run, Estia! What happened exactly?”

When I shouted to tell her that, I noticed that Estia's body blurred for an instant.

” ... This place closely resembles the terrain where Estia lived in the past.”

If she called herself Estia, then the existence I’m speaking to right now would be none other than the Darkness Spirit.

“Why did you switch with Estia even though the sun still has not set?”

“Estia was beginning to feel distraught after looking outside and the cat beastwoman tried to talk to her but the conversation rapidly fell apart and she jumped out.”

It felt like I was being pressed by various troublesome matters.

Am I incapable of seeing through the Darkness Spirit?

” ... Our journey to Meratoni is a final decision. There’s no turning back you know? Furthermore, if she’s had any trauma, won’t you, as the Darkness Spirit, notice?”

“It’s not as if I know all of Estia’s memories. Sorry, but could you please give me a moment?”

” ... Okay. But we’ll be continuing on. Since there should be a village slightly ahead if we continue on.”

” ... Thank you.”

Since Cathy and Lionel arrived as we were having our conversation, I spoke honestly about this time's incident ... apart from the matter regarding spirits though.

“Apparently, Estia thought that she saw a place similar to this when she was sold to the Empire. It seems like she got frightened after recalling that shocking event.”

” ... There's no helping it then nya. For childhood memories, the more shocking it was, the more entrenched it will be nya.”

“Perhaps she was kidnapped from Meratoni or one of the surrounding villages ... or perhaps there's a chance that she was sold?”

“Yup. Let's first hurry to the village to rest.”

“Okay. It shouldn't be a problem if monsters appear at night with the 3 of you around but she might be able to calm down mentally if she gets some rest.”

I recommended Estia to lie down inside the carriage and Cathy and Kefin got along well while sitting at the coachman seat as we began to continue forward.

Just before the sun completely set, we finally arrived at the village but something felt strange.

“I am S-rank Healer Luciel affiliated with the Healer’s Guild Church Headquarters. Is the village elder in?”

When I introduced myself to the men at the village entrance who were being wary of us, I thought that I saw a flash of impatience across their faces but before I knew it, Cathy and Kefin who were at the coachman seat disappeared.

Then, when I turned back to look at the men, they had been rendered unconscious before I knew it.

” ... Why did you do that?”

I was confused as to why the 2 of them attacked the villagers but the one who admonished me wasn’t Lionel but Fornoir.

She suddenly stood on only her hind legs as if performing a wheelie and I fell off because I couldn’t react in time.

“Ouch! Why did you suddenly do that ... “Burrururu” I’m sorry.”

When I stood up, Fornoir’s face was right in front of mine and it showed anger.

That’s how it felt to me so I gradually calmed down.

“Lionel, this?”

“Apparently, unusually, we’ve encountered bandits of some sort.”

“Aren’t bandits urban legends?”

“The public order in Saint Schull Allied Nations is tremendously good so you might not have a chance to see them but they do exist. In the Empire, there are even bandit bands to the scale that requires the army to be dispatched.”

Lionel lectured me while he dismounted and requested for rope before beginning to tie the bandits up.

I thought that it would gradually cause a commotion but I didn’t feel any presence of villagers coming out and it also didn’t feel like Cathy and Kefin were caught.

“Please wake Estia and have the horses and the carriage enter the Hermit’s stable.”

” ... Okay. Fornoir. I’ll call for you tomorrow so could you go inside?”

But Fornoir shook her head side to side.

I felt like I could see the determination that dwelled within her eyes.

“Ha~. If that’s the case, then could Estia ride on you?”

Her head drooped when I asked.

She seemed to have agreed to the compromise.

“Luciel-sama! There might be enemies outside as well.”

I understood Lionel’s concern but I went to wake Estia inside the carriage.

“Estia, bandits or the likes might appear so stay together with Fornoir.”

“Yes.”

I entrusted Estia to the Darkness Spirit and deposited the tied up bandits inside the carriage that Estia descended from.

“Lionel. I’ll listen to Fornoir’s selfish desires once in a while. Moreover, Fornoir would notice if enemies approach and if she gets injured, I’ll lock her up in the Hermit’s stable as punishment.”

” ... It can’t be helped if that’s your decision.”

Lionel compromised saying that there’s no helping it, Fornoir looked at me with an indescribable expression while I could expect

the Darkness Spirit to be able to exert it's strength given that night is arriving.

“That's right, Lionel. In cases like this, would it better to wait? Or to head to the village elder's house?”

“Do you know the location of the village elder's house?”

“Yes. Since I've been to this village countless times.”

“The, let's head to the village elder's house. Since the leader of the bandits might be there.”

“Alright.”

” ... But, in this situation, if we do not hide the horses and the carriage, we would be discovered ...”

” ... Ha~ So troublesome. Lionel, we'll go with a frontal attack. It's fine if we defeat them from the front if we're seen. Either way, with those 2, the enemies might already be unconscious.”

“Understood.”

We set off after I activated 「Area Barrier」.

Although there weren't any evidence of fighting in the village,

none of the houses had lights in them even though the sun is setting.

” ... Were they all gathered somewhere?”

“Maybe. But I’m curious as to why there aren’t any evidence of fighting ...”

We headed in the direction of the village elder’s house while having questions in our head before we could finally see lights.

“I’m worried about why we don’t see Cathy and Kefin’s figures ...”

“But if it is a bandit band that those 2 are not able to escape, it must have considerable ability and scale ...”

When we approached closer, I could hear voices similar to cheers and there was a banquet being held in front of the village elder’s house but it was not a normal banquet.

Villagers drew near to Cathy and Kefin while the 2 of them desperately avoided the magic from the demon race.

While wondering why there was totally no sounds of battle even though they were fighting, Lionel, the Darkness spirit, and I immediately understood the situation and moved.

“That’s a demon? Do you think if its movements will be sealed if I use 「Sanctuary Circle」?”

“The demon race is weak to Light and Holy attribute magic. If you activate「Sanctuary Circle」, it might not die but it will be able to weaken it.”

“I wish that it would be able to recover status abnormalities too if possible though.”

“I’ll make a move first.”

“Okay. Please protect those 2.”

“Understood.”

Lionel rushed in.

“Luciel, Ane-sama, if the humans do not return to normal with the activation of 「Sanctuary Circle」, I will use my magic. At that time, please look after Estia’s body.”

I heard that but I didn’t answer.

Because I was already activating the 「Magic Circle Chant」 for 「Sanctuary Circle」.

The pale light that illuminated the darkness spread across the entire location where the banquet was being held and an instant after the vortex of light was seen, I heard a scream.

After I rushed forward with the horse carriage, I saw a mountain of corpses ... or not, I confirmed the figures of collapsed villagers who were being manipulated.

” Ha ... Ha ... Luciel-sama, you saved us. If it wasn't playing around in the battle, it would have been dangerous.”

Looking closely, Cathy and Kefin had multiple injuries looking as if it was gouged out and the large shield held by Lionel was nowhere to be seen.

“Immediately after the demon was suffering, all the villagers' movement stopped and in that gap, the 3 of us somehow dealt the finishing blow together nya.”

Looking at the sweat pouring out of Cathy's face, I could guess that it was as strong as the Red Dragon.

” ... How did the Empire overlook a demon of this caliber? I'm more curious about that.”

Even though Lionel's large shield was missing and his left arm was twisted in an angle that it shouldn't be able to bend in, he was apparently still worried about the demon.

The demon that the 3 of them dealt the finishing blow to was of similar stature to a human and there wasn't any large differences in its facial features too.

But, it had a horn, had a tail like beastmen and its limbs were covered in robust scales like Dragonewts.

“You’ve done well fighting against this. Even so ... it seems to originally be a human.”

I placed the corpse of the demon race that still gave off a presence even upon death into my magic bag.

I was slightly wary but it smoothly entered and I could finally settle down.

“We’ll need to ask the villagers when they wake up regarding this demon and the Empire. Before that, the treatment for you all comes first.”

“Burururu.”

Fornoir came to my side and it felt like she wanted to entrust Estia’s unconscious body to me.

“So the Darkness Spirit also lent its strength huh ...”

Only Fornoir heard my mutterings and nodded.

I didn't actually see the Darkness Spirit fight in the field but I could guess that it was the Darkness Spirit's power that made the villagers collapse.

I don't know anything about the Darkness Spirit's objectives and I can't completely trust it but I'll try believing in it slightly.

While thinking so, just to be safe, I applied the highest grade healing magic, purification magic and status recovery magic on Lionel and the others and I applied Recover and Dispel on the villagers.

Chapter 144: Mystery Of The Demon Race

We searched the location where the demon was and where the villagers were being manipulated but there were no traces left as to why there was a demon in this village.

” ... Is it possible that because I activated Sanctuary Circle, the traces of Darkness, curses and the likes ended up being extinguished?”

When I spoke to the 3 of them to dispel my anxiety, I saw Lionel and the others give me radiant smiles.

“I wonder ... even though it was a demon race wrapped in such a thick layer of miasma, after you activated it, the demon looked like it was not clad in miasma at all so it’s not strange to think if you purified anything along with it.”

Lionel gleefully spread his arms and shook his head side to side.

I knew that I asked the question to the wrong person.

“We crushed it before it performed any ritual so it’s almost certainly all right nya. It is not Luciel-sama’s fault even if the truth is not elucidated nya.”

In the first place, it’s completely my responsibility that we are now unable to investigate if there were any kind of traces.

“That’s right. This is the first time apart from the Red Dragon that I encountered such a strong opponent. If the demon didn’t play around during battle and Luciel-sama and Lionel-dono didn’t come running, I would have been dead together with Cathy around this time”

Maybe he read my expression but Kefin was my only ally ... those words sounded like he meant that the demon was even stronger than Lionel.

“Kefin, this is the time when we should tease Luciel-sama a little more nya.”

Cathy laughed as she appeared to wash away Kefin’s words.

If the wounds suffered this time during combat with the demon was while it was playing around, the fact that Cathy and Kefin might have really died shook my heart.

“I think so too but it looks like the villagers are waking up.”

Hearing Kefin’s words, I looked over towards the villagers and the villagers were certainly tossing and turning.

” ... I don’t know how this situation will appear to them. But, please sheathe your swords.”

I said as I reformed the 「Area Barrier」.

With that, even in the unlikely event that we receive a surprise attack, as long as none of them die in a single attack, it's unlikely that anybody would die.

While having that thought, I called out.

“Dear villagers, are you all right?”

After calling out multiple times, the villagers woke up one by one.

“I am S-rank Healer Luciel affiliated with the Healer's Guild. Do you all have a clear grip on your consciousness?”

As I continued to call out, the effect gradually began to show as the villagers gradually came to consciousness.

Then, the instant they saw my figure, their faces paled.

“Luciel-sama!? When did you arrive?”

“It's Luciel-sama.”

“Even his retainers came along with him.”

When one of them awakened, the other's consciousness cleared

one after the other and for some reason, they prostrated before me.

It seemed like there were villagers who remembered my appearance.

“Please don’t prostrate on the ground. It has not even been an hour since I arrived in this village. At the village entrance, I noticed that an unusual phenomenon was happening and when I rushed over, I saw that you all were being manipulated by a member of the demon race, we defeated the demon and I immediately treated you all with healing magic. Even so, what happened?”

When I said that, one man walked over and once again began to prostrate in front of me.

I recalled that he is this village’s village elder.

“Actually, the children were captured as hostages in my house. We were threatened by that man calling himself a demon ... ”

“Threatened?”

” ... After he mentioned about performing a ritual, my memory ... ”

The village elder made a troubled expression and it didn’t look like an act.

Fornoir who is sensitive to lies didn't show any reaction.

“Is there anyone who knows? I don't think that everyone fell into the hypnotized state all at once?”

But nobody raised their hands.

Given that it was a demon that could mess around with Cathy and Kefin, it might have been able to manipulate the villagers all at once ...

“All right. Village elder, please go look at your house. Cathy and Kefin, please follow the village elder and check on the condition of the children in the house. If they've become demons then please allow them to rest in peace.”

“”Yes!””

Confirming that Cathy and Kefin were headed towards the village elder's house, I decided to find out when exactly the villagers lost their memories.

While thinking that it was great that I decided to go on an expedition to Meratoni such that fortunately the villagers are alive and I could listen to the situation from them, I begin questioning them.

“I’m sorry if you all are feeling tired but could you please tell me the memories you have around the time right before when you were manipulated? Please tell me whatever you all remember up to the process where the demon captured the children.”

I don’t know why the demon laid dormant in this village but I believe without a doubt that somebody guided and brought him here.

However, anything to testify to that didn’t show up.

On the contrary, all of them unanimously said that they didn’t know about the village elder’s words earlier about being threatened by the demon.

“It’s as if ... ?”

I’ve seen this phenomenon recently.

That’s right. In the Dwarf Kingdom, after the Darkness Spirit used its power.

But at that time everyone with no resistance, except me, had their memories tampered with due to the undulations of Darkness.

“Lionel, the village elder’s house. Everyone, please wait here.”

I didn’t pursue and channeled magical power into my Illusionary

Cane on the spot and deployed a 「Sanctuary Circle」 at once.

The next instant, I heard the sound of an explosion 『Dooooon』, something flew out and stood floating in the air but Lionel swung something that looked like his Flame Greatsword and a vortex of flame that I've never seen before caught that something and shot it down.

“So Lionel is capable of something like that as well huh?”

While muttering that, I looked towards the gathered villagers and deployed a 「Sanctuary Circle」 as well.

“To think that there would be more ...”

Facing the villager that was suffering, without hesitation, I threw the Holy Dragon Spear that I poured magical power into.

The instant it transformed into the same appearance as the initial demon after passing its threshold of suffering, the Holy Dragon Spear pierced deeply into the demon's chest and it collapsed with a shriek.

The villagers were confused by my sudden actions and there were even some who cried out but when I transformed my weapon to the Illusionary Sword and sliced off the limbs of the villager who turned into a demon, inversely, nobody cried out due to the excessive cruelty.

My body moved in a way that shocked even myself but it didn't feel like I was being manipulated, I felt that it must unmistakably be because my sense of crisis was awakened.

“Well then, demon, why have you entered a village in the Saint Schull Allied Nations, moreover in a village that is close to the center?”

“Gahaa.”

Without placing much concern in the blood that it coughed out, I applied 「Heal」 on its four limbs and slightly recovered its wounds.

I found out that healing magic was effective on the demon race and purification magic and status recovery magic also had a regular effect on them so I came to an understanding that they were different from the undead.

“I may not be a Paladin but if there are demons that are capable of easily destroying a village like this around, I believe it is my mission to defeat them.”

“Ha ... ha, then you should just kill me.”

“You don't want to live?”

“Kukuku ... with these wounds ... I'll die ... either way.”

“I will remove the magic stone in your chest before you can detonate your magical power so I do not recommend self-detonation. Furthermore, I can treat you so that you don’t die.”

I applied 「Heal」 on the cut limbs, stopping the bleeding.

“I don’t particularly have any grudges with the demon race. We may not coexist but I do not intend to interfere with your reason for living. Furthermore, in this era with no Hero ... in this era with no Demon Lord, what reason is there to wage war?”

“Then why did you kill our brethren.”

“Then I’ll ask you back, if I go to the demon race’s territory and brainwash a whole village, what would you do?”

” ”

“That’s your answer ... leaving that aside, are you a pure demon?”

” ”

“Or perhaps were you originally from an experimental facility in the Empire?”

“?!”

It's blood pressure immediately dropped after it gave an anxious expression.

“I don't intend to do anything bad ... ?! 「Middle Heal」, 「High Heal」.”

I chanted healing magic with 「Chant Termination」 but the demon didn't recover.

” ... Why did he die? To really lose your life, it's worse than a pledge ... it's more of a kind of curse.”

To think that there would be curses that won't be dispelled after I chant 「Dispel」 ... I felt that I'll have to listen to the Darkness Spirit.

I noticed small whispering voices overlapping and there was a slight buzz.

At that moment, Lionel returned carrying a charred corpse together with Cathy and Kefin who had suffered injuries.

” ... There were still demons here as well?”

“Yeah. Since you all weren't around, I launched a surprise attack and defeated it in an instant while it was still suffering from the 「Sanctuary Circle」. Did you find anything there?”

After I healed the 3 of them by chanting 「Area High Heal」, I once again chanted status recovery magic before listening to them.

” ... No, in exchange, the children are fine. Although it looked like they were trying to transfer them to somewhere ...”

“Okay. I’ll listen to anything else later.”

“Yes.”

I looked back at the villagers, glanced at each and every one of their faces and spoke.

“Everyone, we’ve defeated the demons so it is fine to return to your own homes. I will be in the village elder’s house today so please contact me if you have anything.”

If they have forgotten everything, there would be no meaning in questioning them ... instead, it would lead to distrust.

I don’t think it’s a good choice to stay at the village elder’s house but there are people that I have treated before among the villagers so I should be able to at least have some of them talk to me.

I thought so as I prioritized returning the children to their parents.

After turning on the light to the village elder’s house and

confirming that all the children were no longer there, I sucked in a breath.

” ... So what’s the reason for this disastrous scene?”

I understand that there was a battle but it was in a seriously terrible condition.

“We were attacked from behind when we were guided here nya.”

“It was really dangerous, we both received attacks ... if the pale light didn’t shine in from outside and cause the demon to suffer, we might have died.”

“I somehow slashed that demon who was mimicking the old man from behind when the 2 of them rained attacks on it.”

“We were saved when Lionel-sama attacked nya. Just that the house caught fire after that and we had to rush nya.”

“I was surprised when they blew the roof off as they were extinguishing the fire.”

“That’s right!! Lionel. What was that flame attack using that greatsword?”

“There was a weapons maniac within the church’s Knight Corps and he/she taught me the way to use it.”

” ... You did well to manage to get him/her to teach you.”

“He/she taught me because I am Luciel-sama’s retainer. He/she proudly laughed and said it was because I am the retainer of a person who will recover the prestige of the church.”

” ... I’m just a coward though. Well then, let’s have dinner.”

“””Yes!”””

Before entering the house, I stored the horses including Fornoir into the Hermit’s stable and after waking the men inside the carriage and confirming that they weren’t of the demon race, I released them.

After laying the still unconscious Estia down on the bed, we just only finished returning all the children to their parents.

I applied purification magic on the table and laid out dinner.

“After dinner, we’ll tidy up the village elder’s house as we search around.”

“””Yes!”””

Then, we circled around to have dinner.

“Cathy and Kefin, during the initial battle, did you 2 notice anything at the scene?”

“He was holding onto a suspicious staff and there was also a pot nya.”

A staff and a pot huh ... was it some ritual?

” ... Where did those items go?”

“The magic released by Luciel-sama caused the staff and the pot and the magic circle to disappear.”

“Magic circle?”

I didn't notice such a thing but did it all really get erased by 「Sanctuary Circle」?

“I didn't see it just now but shall we search for it tomorrow morning?”

My train of thought was brought back by Lionel's words and I continued the conversation.

“Yeah. Were there any other aspects that were suspicious?”

“Now that you mention it, none of the villagers thought that the man who we thought to be the village elder was suspicious. Perhaps there’s the possibility of a mimicry ability?”

“I was curious about that too. For Fornoir to not be able to discern it ... that usually doesn’t happen. She should have been able to notice that they were bandits or not but she wasn’t able to react ... perhaps it’s different for the demon race and for monsters or it’s possible that they are capable of imitating sensations like smell or even emotions.”

“I know nya. Kefin and I didn’t notice with our smell and sense as well nya.”

Fornoir who is probably a spirit didn’t notice, Cathy and Kefin who are beastmen didn’t notice as well.

Is that really possible?

“Indeed ... Even so, to have 3 demons appear, I feel like it is an excessive allocation of forces to control a single village ...”

“Well, this time it is almost certain that the Empire is involved.”

After Lionel showed an expression of shock, I was hit by some pressurizing killer gaze.

” ... Do you know something?”

“I recalled about the connection you all had with investigating the demon race at that time so I asked the demon that I defeated if it was originally from an experimental facility in the Empire and it died just from that. I’m guessing it was a curse.”

” ... Do they seriously intend to create demons?”

What I felt from Lionel was not only that of a warrior but also the reluctance to admit that his homeland the Empire was being dyed in darkness.

Such emotions were overflowing out.

It’s times like this that saying some words that can bring about hope or joy would slightly save the atmosphere.

I felt like I was taught that by someone.

“I don’t know. However, it would be quite unpleasant if this continues and maybe I should seriously think about the strength to protect myself.”

“Do you intend to make your own private squad?”

Kefin immediately jumped on the topic.

“Yeah. Since I’ll go to the Empire someday.”

” ... Why?”

I guess Lionel would really think like that since he knows about my personality but demons are appearing even outside the territory of the Empire.

It felt like the situation wouldn't be much different no matter where I am.

Then, there's only 1 thing I want Lionel and the others to do.

“The reason why you all want to maintain your slave position is because it would be resolved when you go to the Empire right? I don't want to have the members I trust stay as slaves forever.”

” ... There's no helping it then. However, going to Meratoni, returning to Rockford, heading to Nelldal, aiming for other countries, for the time being, it doesn't seem like you would be able to get married.”

Just as I thought I was able to divert his feelings slightly, it was returned with enmity.

” ... It's unrelated so don't suddenly drop a bomb!!”

“Lionel-sama is just worried nya. Polygamy should be accepted in Saint Schull Allied Nations nya. I've never heard a guy ask the girl

to wait nya. You should quickly attack Lumina-dono nya.”

Just as I thought that she was being noisy with her nya nya, Kefin further chimed in his support.

“That’s right. I don’t think that you would get another chance.”

I looked to me like Kefin was saying that with flared nostril to himself but his face was close by and I received mental damage so I cut the conversation and gave my instructions.

” ... I’m diligently thinking about it so don’t mention it. Also for tonight, perhaps there would be an attack so I leave the search for enemies and guard to you all.”

“””Yes!”””

Thus, the strangely exhausting dinner ended and we started cleaning up the house of the village elder.

Chapter 145: Threat From The Undulations Of Darkness

In the end, we didn't find any eye-catching documents in the village elder's house.

“For nothing to turn up means that the village elder himself didn't know why he became a demon?”

“Yes. Moreover, the sensation I felt when I slashed him gave me the feeling that he was not as strong as to the extent of the initial demon we encountered.”

” ... Certainly, if he had the same strength as the first demon, we would have died nya.”

“Would it be somehow related to how his presence changed in an instant?”

“Perhaps. Tomorrow, we'll inspect the combat ground and question the villagers. Well, it's unlikely that we would uncover everything so if nothing comes up by noon we'll depart for Meratoni.”

“That's reasonable.”

“Leave the lookout duty to me nya.”

“Luciel-sama and Lionel-sama, please rest.”

“Okay. Please wake me up if you sense anything astray, even if it is something trivial.”

“Understood nya.”

After activating 「Area Barrier」, I took a nap in a vacant room.

“Before sleeping, maybe I’ll inform Pope-sama about the incident with the demon race in this village and ask Pope-sama to investigate if there’s anything out of place.”

After contacting Pope-sama with the magic communication bead, without using Angel’s Pillow, I lied down in such a way that I would be able to get up at a moment’s notice and closed my eyes.

Was it true that humans became demons? That sole question circled around my head.

My eyes naturally opened and I got up.

“What’s this out of place feeling?”

Leaving the room, I found Lionel asleep.

” ... It’s impossible for Lionel to not notice me.”

To investigate the strange feeling, I applied 「Recover」 on Lionel but it was ineffective.

“Darkness Spirit? Or demon race? ... I don't want to die though.”

When I moved to the living room, the room I carried Estia to was emitting a suspicious light.

It's honestly troublesome.

But I did decide to trust her once so I should follow my own logic.

I inspired myself in such a way and opened the door to the room Estia slept in.

” ... Undulations of Darkness? Is she absorbing it?”

While Estia remained asleep on the bed, her body was absorbing and releasing a black mist that was emitting light different from miasma.

“It's like breathing.”

Deciding that it would be bad if I suffer a surprise attack by this, I used the Hermit's key and called Fornoir.

“Sorry but I leave it to you.”

After applying purification magic, I activated 「Area High Heal」 to recover Estia and Fornoir’s physical strength and observed the situation.

It was the second time I’ve seen Fornoir’s shining appearance emitting white light but this was the first time she looked as if she was a Pegasus to me.

It felt as if the emitted light formed light wings and golden rings could be seen around all her hoofs.

At that moment, the light was absorbed into Estia.

Finally, Fornoir’s light emission ended and she wanted to return to the Hermit’s stable.

“I don’t really understand but thank you.”

Not knowing if they have any effect, I applied 「Extra Heal」 and purification magic on her before returning her to the stable.

When I’ve sent Fornoir off and turned to Estia, the black waves had disappeared and the Darkness Spirit’s consciousness awoken.

“I thank you for calling Ane-sama, Luciel-sama. If that continued, the undulations of Darkness may have caused mental

instability.”

“You’re awake ... Do you know the situation you were in? I don’t know if it was done intentionally or subconsciously but the undulations of Darkness were being absorbed and released as if you were breathing?”

If the Darkness Spirit is running amok without us noticing, I felt that it would definitely be a terrible thing.

“Sorry. While using Estia’s body, I’ve never used such strong waves before so it seemed like this time, I kind of self-destructed.”

” ... Please be careful. Leaving that aside, as for the demon race, did you notice at that time that instead of just one, there were also 2 others around?”

“What? There were others?”

Her reaction was slightly over-the-top but I judged that she had no merit in lying so I continued the conversation.

“Yeah. The village elder and a villager transformed into demons. It seemed like even Fornoir didn’t notice so I’m bothered by it.”

” ... Ane-sama didn’t notice too? If that’s true then Luciel, you must unify all the countries or have absolute power if not the Empire will make their move.”

“Ha? Please tell it to me in an easier to understand manner.”

Leaving aside the sudden topic on the Empire, I knew that the Darkness Spirit was holding onto information that we don't know but I was suddenly confronted with an unreasonable request.

Thinking about it normally, it would be understandable if I say that it is impossible but ... so that I am not confused any further, I posed one question at a time.

“It means that there's not much time before the Empire commences war!!”

” ... How do you know that?”

” ... Originally, the Empire was researching on creating a Hero. Do you know that it shifted to research on producing the power of the demon race?”

“It's the first time I've heard of it.”

“Researching on creating a Hero gave good reputation but the point was that they wanted human weapons.”

It can't be helped.

Wars aren't the only battle so it would be fine as long as they can

fight.

Even for those who gained their strength, they would once again turn to dust as the age goes by.

If that's the case, it would be more constructive to research a method that would make the number more plentiful.

Furthermore, they can fight monsters and there are labyrinths around too ...

” ... Did that experiment succeed?”

“No, they could not create Heroes. I said it previously, the result of that is the cause of this time's incident. If this is reported ... wait, you said that you guys defeated all of them right?”

“Yeah. However, due to the activation of 「Sanctuary Circle」 as they were in the midst of the ritual, not only the evidence but everything was erased ... ”

It would have been great if anything remained behind.

” ... Then, since the experiment was a failure, the research might go on for another couple of years? If that's the case then during that time ...”

The Darkness Spirit looked at me with eyes that could pierce

through me.

“Wha, what is it?”

“Luciel, if you don’t want to die, collect all the blessings.”

” ... The phrasing you used refers to collecting the blessings of Spirits and Dragons?”

“That’s right. Receive the blessings of the Fire and Wind Spirits and you would reach Fluna’s foundation ... ”

Maybe the Darkness Spirit reached its limit when it talked to that point as it fell asleep.

“To run out of steam at the crucial moment ... why am I getting caught up in one thing after the other?”

I muttered as I stared at Estia and silently left the room.

When I opened the door, Lionel was waiting but his complexion was bad.

“Are you okay?”

“Yes. My consciousness is slightly muddy but it won’t impede my movements.”

“I wouldn’t call that okay ... I’ll check on the condition of the 2 people outside.”

“I’ll come along.”

Lionel forced himself to stand up and he looked intent on it so I agreed to him coming along.

When Lionel and I left the village elder’s house, I immediately saw the 2 of them but their staggering figures were strange.

“Just to be sure.”

When I activated 「Recover」 with 「Magic Circle Chant」, the 2 of them held their weapons and charged over.

Lionel readied his Flame Greatsword and stood in front of me.

“It’s Luciel-sama and Lionel-sama nya.”

” ... That startled me.”

The 2 of them fell to their knees and sat down.

“Did something happen?”

“Amazingly strong undulations of Darkness came from the direction of the village elder’s house and it caused my consciousness to become cloudy nya. I didn’t notice that it was Luciel-sama and Lionel-sama who were approaching.”

“I thought you were an enemy for using magic all of the sudden but my consciousness cleared so I halted at once.”

If the Darkness Spirit goes on a rampage, a village or a small town would easily descend into chaos.

Even though being told that fact caused me to think, the condition of their bodies took priority.

” ... The Paladin squad will arrive tomorrow so we’ll remain here and search. You 2 can go take a nap first.”

“”Yes!””

The 2 of them entered the village elder’s house.

Then, Lionel glanced at me and asked.

“Did you realize something?”

“Yeah. I understood that, apparently, if we are not able to cope with the emergence of the demon race, the Empire might make their move.”

” ... So it’s true ... I will serve to protect only Luciel-sama.”

While feeling out-of-place as the atmosphere that Lionel gave off was different from the usual, I told him the direction we would be taking from now on.

“Yeah. Even so, we have an overwhelming lack of people so I plan to increase the number of my allies.”

” ... Looks like it is going to become busy.”

“Yeah. I’ll have Lionel work too so please train yourself well.”

“Yes!”

I don’t understand Lionel’s feelings but his expression looks like it became softer compared to before and the day gradually became bright enough to see the village’s condition.

As Lionel and I watched the village from that spot, right before the sun rose up to the sky, 3 of them including Estia came out of the village elder’s house.

“Estia, how is your body condition?”

“Yes, it is fine. I’m sorry for troubling you.”

Apart from the Darkness Spirit, there's no problem with Estia but would it really be alright to bring Estia to Meratoni like this?

I ended up having such a thought.

I refreshed my feelings and looked at Cathy and Kefin and while the 2 of them looked normal, I asked about their condition for now before giving instructions for today.

“What about the 2 of you?”

“Complete recovery nya.”

“No problems.”

“Very well. After we finish our meal after this, we'll search this house one more time to look for any clues on anything that disappeared here and also ask the villagers some questions.”

“”””Yes!””””

After our meals, we didn't find anything special when we searched the village elder's house.

Even so, the demons that transformed into the village elder and the villager had often been seen talking with people from the outside.

When we investigated up to that point, the Paladin squad arrived so we handed over the scene to them and departed for Meratoni.

“It wasn’t the Valkyrie Paladin Corps nya.”

“What a pity.”

Why have Cathy and Kefin been attacking me lately?

When I asked that, Lionel looked at the 2 of them with a serious expression and asked.

“Cathy and Kefin, do you 2 want to get married?”

A bomb that shocked even me was dropped.

That abrupt remark caused the grinning faces of the 2 of them to stiffen.

” ... What do you mean?”

“Luciel-sama, do you consent to the 2 of them forming a family?”

” ... If they both really think so then, of course, I’ll allow it but ...”

“This time, because the demon race have appeared, I don’t think that the peaceful times will last forever.”

” ... I understand Lionel’s thinking but even if I release you 2 from slavery and if you 2 get married, I will still have you 2 remain as my retainers you know?”

“Of course nya.”

“I have my own dreams as well so I will be following you.”

Lionel looked at the 2 of them with an indescribable expression and then looked at me and sighed.

“I’m the one who wants to sigh. It would be difficult to immediately find replacements for the 2 of them and even if the demon race have appeared, it’s not as if the danger would strengthen all of the sudden right? Lionel, for now, you can focus on thinking about your rematch with Instructor Broad.”

” ... Understood.”

After that, needless to say, due to the bomb Lionel dropped, the somewhat awkward atmosphere continued throughout the duration of the ride until we arrived at Meratoni.

Chapter 146: S-Rank Healer Luciel

When I finally caught sight of Meratoni, my tension gradually began to rise.

Normally I wouldn't be so tensed but Fornoir's condition wasn't well so I was currently in the carriage.

Lionel rode in front as the escort while Cathy and Kefin sat in the coachman seat but they didn't speak a single word.

Estia was looking down the whole time as if she did not want to see the outside and she only react when I spoke to her, but even then, the conversation did not bounce back.

I'm sure it's not bad of me to wish for this strange atmosphere to end.

Perhaps because we were approaching the gate, Lionel was corresponding with them but the outside gradually became noisy.

“What's wrong?”

“Apparently, an imposter using Luciel-sama's name had passed by just now.”

” ”

I got off the carriage in silence and called out to the gate soldier.

“Good afternoon. I’ll be going to the Healer’s Guild and Adventurer’s Guild from here so you can come along. That’s right! I should walk once in a while.”

I was worried about Estia but her complexion became better when she got off the carriage so I decided to continue walking like that.

I stored the carriage and ushered the horses into the Hermit’s stable before displaying my Healer’s Guild S-rank card just in case and walked towards the Healer’s Guild.

“Luciel-sama, please treat me again.”

“Please teach the healers.”

“You should have contacted me if you’re coming back. I’ll prepare clothes as present the next time.”

“Luciel-kun, are you able to drink alcohol now?”

“A new restaurant has opened you know.”

Seeing my figure, everyone on the streets of Meratoni called out to me.

It's a nice thing to be welcomed like this.

It felt like I've been treated gingerly lately so I was honestly pleased.

The complexion of the gate soldier from earlier was changing from blue to white but I walked without paying attention to it.

Kefin reluctantly asked the gate soldier about information on my imposter but for me, rather than that, my joy was welling up from being able to walk and view the townscape.

From buildings built with magic to those expanded by Dwarves, it was very fun to see this city that seemed like it gradually expanded by using any method available.

But, it's unfair for me to be the only person feeling refreshed so I first headed towards the Healer's Guild.

If possible, I hoped to meet a pushy person like Krull-san who would be able to blow away this atmosphere.

“Luciel-sama, that's the one. The one that entered Meratoni city using Luciel-sama's name.”

I could see with just a glance what a splendidly decorated carriage it was.

“What a luxurious carriage. Well, it’s possible that we have the same name so for now, let’s enter the Healer’s Guild.”

“””Yes!”””

When I smiled at everyone, Lionel and the others also gave mischievous smiles.

I felt the atmosphere return to usual.

It looks like the owner of the carriage did a good job of blocking the road.

Is it alright for me to overlook the usage of my name if it’s like this?

“Do you think if there’s anybody in the carriage.”

“There are 3 people including the coachman.”

“What do we do?”

I decided to leave it to the 3 of them.

“Let’s see ... what do they intend to do by using Luciel-sama’s name.”

“Luciel-sama and Lionel-sama are watching nya.”

Cathy and Kefin charged into the carriage.

“What are you thinking stopping a carriage in such a location nya?”

“What do you intend to do if we get injured!!”

Looking at the 2 of them act out the role of B-grade movie scoundrels totally picking a fight, I almost burst out laughing but I withstood the urge.

A lady from inside the carriage and a man sitting on the coachman seat retorted.

“Lowly beasts!! Present in this carriage is the S-rank Healer Luciel-sama. If you beasts are making noise, are you looking to be punished?”

The man that got off from the coachman seat acted like he was about to draw his sword but I could only see him as a small-time delinquent.

“Ha~ that’s why I hate the barbaric beasts. Luciel-sama with his broad heart will definitely forgive them. Be ashamed of your own foolishness and go home.”

I wonder why? I'm feeling super irritated.

Are they part of the human supremacy group?

“Lionel, can such a thing be found everywhere?”

“I think so. In the past, I recall cutting down people who did the same thing.”

Even if we don't include his followers, people will come for this person's head if he looks down on people that much.

But, this time, the ones who set the trap were Cathy and Kefin so I won't intervene.

“That's right. I'll need to interrogate him as to why he would need to impersonate me. Moreover to do so in this important place that is like a second home to me.”

I was stopped from approaching them.

“There are witnesses here so let's watch for a little longer.”

I was saved by Lionel's composure.

“Is this your atonement for dropping the bomb on those 2?”

“Yes. For some reason, I was impatient at that time.”

Perhaps the undulations of Darkness showed its effect.

I decided to ask the Darkness Spirit the next time it showed up.

” ... Alright. Just in case, Lionel, be wary of any people who might have entered the Healer’s Guild.”

“Understood.”

We cut our conversation and looked ahead as the situation gradually heated up but the 2 of them looked extremely happy.

“They’re a good combination huh?”

“Yeah.”

While we remained as spectators, beside us, the gate soldier was trembling.

Soon, the man who drew his sword sliced at Kefin.

Then, the woman in front of Cathy boasted.

“That’s why I warned you ... this is what happens when beasts defy the great human race. Right?”

” ”

“What are you dazing out for. Make this cat the rust on your sword too ?!”

Cathy’s figure had already disappeared by the time the woman’s eyes returned to her.

“She fled huh ... this corpse is a nuisance.”

The man leaned back towards the woman as if entrusting his body.

“Hey, don’t get conceited.”

The man who was leaning towards the side crashed onto the ground.

“Eh?”

The next instant, Cathy’s knife hand struck the base of the woman’s neck from behind and she lost consciousness.”

“No big deal nya.”

“Are the guards of the S-rank Healer small fries?”

“The one inside, move the carriage out of the way nya.”

Perhaps he could not endure the provocation from the 2 of them, a man alighted from the carriage.

“Aren’t you 2 considerably strong. Are you guys new adventurers who just entered this city? To go showing off your ability, perhaps you 2 want to become my followers?”

A lanky man came out.

“He would certainly resemble me if he didn’t train but ... why is he so confident?”

” ... His height and hair color are similar but his face looks different too so it’s a wonder how he impersonated you in Meratoni.”

Lionel and I were astonished by his nerves.

It was no wonder why we were curious why he didn’t get exposed.

“If he’s been performing fraud then I should properly gather intelligence ...”

It was becoming a headache for me but as expected, perhaps due

to the noise, people were beginning to gather.

“So why did you stop your carriage here nya?”

“Because I am an S-rank Healer. Naturally, you know of my name right?”

“Nope, I don’t.”

“This is exactly why stinking beasts are troublesome. I am the S-rank Healer Luciel.”

He boastfully named himself.

” ... It’s subtly different and various aspects are distorted. Even so, there’s no way he can be an S-rank Healer.”

“Shall I capture him?”

“No, I’ll go over. Lionel, don’t let anyone who comes out of the Healer’s Guild get away.”

“Yes.”

“Gate soldier, come along with me too.”

“Ye, yes.”

When we approached, perhaps Cathy and Kefin were still amusing themselves, they gave vassal homage to me.

“What’s this? You’re the man who trains these beasts? Who do you think I am? I am the S-rank Healer. Your beast did this to my retainers. Originally, your head would have instantly left your neck but I am broad minded so I will let you off with just 10 white gold coins.”

“I see. If that’s the case, let’s make a pledge.”

“Pledge?”

“Words that are sworn to the Gods?”

“Of course I know that. I’m asking what do you intend to pledge.”

“Please prove that you are an S-rank Healer. If you do so, I will pay you 10 white gold coins as compensation. However, if you are not the real one but a fraud, then I will have you compensate for all the deceit you’ve done for your whole life.”

“Hmph. Alright. But, do you actually hold 10 white gold coins ...
“『Jingle』

“As you can see, I do have it. So, please make your pledge.”

“Alright. If I am not an S-rank Healer, I will compensate for my sins.”

He loudly swore.

“There you go. So, I’ll leave the rest to you?”

“Yes! I am terribly sorry for this occasion.”

“You, what are you doing?”

“Luciel-dono, nice to meet you, I am Saint Schull’s Allied Nations S-rank Healer affiliated with the Church Headquarters, Luciel. It seems that I am not the only S-rank Healer in this world.”

The surrounding onlookers cheered for me and they hooted the guy who named himself Luciel.

“Wha, the real deal!!”

“Yes. Later, I believe you will be interrogated together with your accomplices. So please be captured without worries.”

Thus, the man hung his head in resignation as the soldiers who came running as support captured him together with his accomplices and transported them to the guard station.

“I didn’t expect an imposter of Luciel-sama to appear nya.”

“To have your name impersonated, Luciel-sama can now be considered famous.”

“It’s fine if I’m famous for good deeds but it’s not gratifying to be impersonated.”

The atmosphere improved and their smiles had returned.

Thus, I got even with him for impersonating my name and it would be fine if he just compensates for the frauds he performed.

With this, I’ll be able to concentrate on Lionel and Instructor Broad’s mock battle.

Then, Estia surprisingly spoke.

“Luciel-sama is popular in this city too.”

“Is that so? It would be great if that’s true. At any rate, this city is something like my second home.”

” ... I’m envious.”

Estia had a somewhat lonely expression despite her smile and it

would be great if she found her foothold somewhere.

As I thought about that, we entered the Healer's Guild and there was a man tied up in a bundle with Krull-san stepping on him.

While feeling my face cramp up due to the sudden shock, I somehow squeezed out a greeting.

“Good afternoon Krull-san. If you're busy I can go out and come back in again?”

“Eh?! If it isn't Luciel-kun. Don't tell me this person is?”

“That's the accomplice of some man called Luciel. He was just arrested.”

“That's great. I'll go deal with this for a bit so please wait a while. Hohoho.”

Krull-san lifted the man up and left the Healer's guild.

“Who was that lady?”

“She should be the Guildmaster of this branch but ... I wonder what's her position now?”

I could only reply Lionel's question with a question, even though

I had achieved the initial goal of regaining the usual atmosphere, we waited at the Healer's Guild resting room without feeling relaxed for some reason.

Chapter 147: Second Home

I didn't really have any important reason for coming to the Healer's Guild but I felt that my luck was good for being able to quickly capture the scam group that was using my name.

After a short while, Krull returned but I could easily tell from her face that she was abnormally excited.

“Welcome back, Luciel-kun.”

Krull-san's radiant smile made me feel nostalgic in some respects.

“I'm home ... rather, is it alright for you to be here?”

“Of course. So, who are these people?”

She scanned through Lionel and the others once before her smile grew wider when she stopped at Estia.

“These are my retainers Lionel, Cathy, and Kefin as well as my subordinate Estia.”

“Luciel-kun has changed after all. Guys, various things will happen and it will be easy to get involved in them when you are around Luciel-kun so please be careful.”

Was it because there were beastmen inside my party? Or was it

because there wasn't a single person wearing the armor of Priest Knights or Paladins or robes? I couldn't tell.

“Krull-san ... you're not my mother and you even say it like it's my nature to drag people into trouble.”

When I refuted with a weak smile, she made a slightly angry expression and glared at me.

“I'm still an Oneesan okay. If you say such words when our age is just over 10 years different, you still have to grow through various experiences in the world. Besides, can you claim that you aren't dragged into troubles?”

That was strangely persuasive so I could only apologize.

I reset my mind and decided to explore the current situation.

Even though a person assuming my name appeared, as long as this town is peaceful, I have at least 2 months of training time.

“Has anything strange happened in Meratoni lately? Limited to those that I don't know within this past slightly more than a year duration?”

“There has been. Since it is Luciel-kun, I think you would find out when you go to the Adventurer's Guild later but lately, there seems to have been an excessive amount of adventurers complaining about injuries and status abnormalities.”

There're so many wounded? Doesn't that mean something pretty bad is happening?

" ... But there are enough Healers right?"

"There are. Even so, it's still insufficient... apparently, monsters with poison, paralysis and petrify abilities appear regularly."

The numbers have been increasing year by year and there are people to properly instruct them but they still have a shortage of manpower ... just how unfavorable is the situation?

I wanted to exclaim that but I realized that even Instructor Broad would be on site if the situation was bad so I felt uneasy.

But, I've not really heard about monster attacks that cause status abnormality in Meratoni.

I recall that the number of poisoned patients I treated was a small enough number to be counted ... now that I think about it, it was limited to the time when I treated Bazzan and the others in the past.

If that's the case, did the monsters come from the direction of the mines?

" ... Did they come from the direction of the mines?"

“Yeah. You knew about it? I’m told that beyond that mine lies the Labyrinth Nation Grandol and apparently, they are coming from there.”

Krull-san gave a surprised expression when I asked and she nodded many times.

” ... By any chance, have I already been dragged into the trouble?”

“If it’s Luciel-kun, you’ll be able to convert that into your own strength right?”

“What over evaluation! Leaving that aside, since the Healers have been healing every day, their skill level should have risen right?”

For some reason, Krull-san was looking at me with a joyful smile as if having found hope.

... I understood that she was a woman with a strong backbone who was getting rid of her anxiety through me.

As I gave a sigh, I enquired on the Healers’ ability to respond and the reply was troubling.

“That’s true but if 「Recover」 is cast, it would treat poison or paralysis or sleep curse but it’s not as if it is effective to all of them

right? I believe Luciel-kun knows that too?”

“What’s with that defective magic?”

Even the Healers that I brought along to Ienith should be able to treat all status abnormalities together at once.

” ... If it’s because they are not using it correctly, then the main problem would be the lack of a proper mentor. In the first place, even Luciel-kun’s 「Area High Heal」 that I’ve heard rumors of is treated as heresy among the Healers.”

Heresy? Certainly, it’s thanks to the God of Healing’s blessing but treating it as heresy doesn’t sound nice at all.

Despite that, Krull-san was finding something amusing as she was smiling the whole time.

” ... I don’t get it. Ha~ are there any other strange happenings?”

“If you count the number of kids coming here to become Healers decreasing this year as a strange happening? Although, due to the influence of Luciel-kun, a large number of people came to register as Healers in Meratoni these few years.”

“Is that so? ... If that’s the case, maybe I’ll perform some healing at the Adventurer’s Guild underground area tomorrow and guide the Healers at the same time?”

“Really? That’s why I love you.”

She looked like she was about to kiss me on my cheek so, this time, I evaded.

“As expected, Lumina-sama’s kiss is better right?”

“?! How did you know?”

It’s quite a recent event.

It hasn’t even been at least 10 days and the word regarding the Knight Corps expedition shouldn’t even be out yet.

“You shouldn’t underestimate the Healer’s Guild’s maiden network.”

Krull-san’s triumphant wink shaved away at my mental strength.

Since the conversation had roughly ended, I requested for her help with arranging for an inn.

“I thought of stopping at an inn after this but could I ask for your help?”

“Sure. Is an inn where it is near the Adventurer’s Guild and

where Priest Knights stayed previously okay?”

“Yes. Thank you in advance. I’ll head to the Adventurer’s Guild now.”

“Okay. Also, please provide me with a lot of interesting topics.”

“Hahaha I’ll do my best.”

I gave a weak laugh and left the Healer’s Guild.

If Krull-san was an inn proprietress, I’m sure the inn would thrive.

My thoughts ended up drifting in that direction.

When we left, surprisingly, the first one to speak was Estia.

“It seems that everyone likes Luciel-sama. That woman just now too ... I feel somewhat envious.”

“Krull-san? If Estia talked, she would have probably conversed with you kindly. I’ll allow you to take independent action so would you like to go and talk to her?”

” ... I’m fine with if we meet next time.”

She faced away as if trying to conceal her slightly reddened face.

Maybe she wants to be spoiled to make up for not having the chance to be spoiled by parents.

It seemed vaguely so.

“Well then Lionel, do you really want to meet Instructor Broad while remaining as a slave?”

If it's against an old combat rival, wouldn't it be better to hold on to his former general title? That's what went through my mind.

” ... Yeah. I have sent a letter to him and he should understand my thinking. Furthermore, I am satisfied with my position as Luciel-sama's retainer.”

Being told that, I ended up feeling delighted and couldn't say anymore.

“When did you send a letter ... oh well. As what we've heard just now at the Healer's Guild, if the adventurers are struggling right now, I don't know if you would be able to have your mock battle immediately. Even so, I want to see the mock battle between the 2 of you so I'll do my very best.”

“Sen'oni (War Demon) and Hayate (Gale) ... sounds amazing.”

“I’ve not seen it before too so I’m looking forward to it nya.”

Kefin said both their nicknames with a childish smile so he probably researched their past.

I could feel Cathy’s intent to witness it as a warrior.

Only Estia was restlessly surveying the city of Meratoni.

While calming the gradually rising tension, we entered the Adventurer’s Guild that was directly beside the Healer’s Guild.

However, what awaited me was an unexpected scene.

That’s right. Because Meratoni’s Adventurer’s Guild was overflowing with injured people.

The exhausted adventurers looked at our direction but nobody realized it was me.

Why’s that even though my face didn’t change nor did my armor?

However, observing carefully, there were only young adventurers there and there weren’t any adventurers that I knew.

And the canteen looked like it was not open either.

“Let’s go to the reception.”

I told Lionel and the others and walked over to speak to a young receptionist that I only have an impression of maybe or maybe not greeting her once before.

“Excuse me. I’m E-rank Adventurer Luciel but is Broad-san or Garba-san or Grulga-san or Nanaera-san or Mirina-san or Melneru-san around?”

I judged that I would be able to understand the current situation in detail if I meet with any of them.

“Erm sorry but with the current situation now, the executives told us to not have anyone bother them ...”

Without knowing my identity, she looked like she was firmly performing her job.

But I was surprised when she could not continue half-way through after she succumbed to the bloodthirst pressure emanating from Lionel from behind.

It looked like it would take some time so I decided to use my trump card.

“Then, could I request that you tell Instructor Broad that S-rank

Healer Luciel has arrived?”

“I, I’ll be right back.”

The receptionist girl ran down to the underground training ground in a hurry.

Then, when the appraising gazes from the adventurers intensified, Instructor Broad appeared like a gale.

“Luciel, nice timing. Quickly come treat the people downstairs.”

The slightly sweaty Instructor Broad grabbed me and tried to drag me underground but Lionel stopped him.

“Whirlwind, wait a moment.”

“Ou. So Sen’oni really became Luciel’s retainer. It doesn’t matter now so let’s go down.”

His excessively high tension and desperation looked like he wanted to prevent somebody’s death.

It transmitted to me that the situation had reached the point where he was grasping at straws.

I nodded at everyone and hurried to the training ground after

Instructor Broad.

“This is the first I’ve seen something like this since Ienith. There are petrification and paralysis ... there’s even weakened state?”

A couple of Healers were around but the recovery amount was not sufficient.

“Instructor Broad, please divide the people into those injured and those who have abnormal status. Of course, I’ll be charging a fee.”

“I understand. Sorry but please treat Grulga.”

“Eh?”

Grulga-san got injured?

I couldn’t wrap my head around it.

For Grulga-san who boasts of his defense of steel to get injured ...

His body was carbonized as far as my eyes could see to the point that it was a mystery as to how he was still alive.

For the time being, I properly confirmed that he had his limbs and hummed the chant for 「High Heal」 and 「Extra Heal」 before activating 「Dispel」 and 「Recover」 at the same time.

A vortex of light rapidly wrapped around Grulga-san before his carbonized arms and the slashes on his body completely healed in no time.

After confirming that the recovery was complete, I used purification magic to remove the solidified blood and returned him to a clean condition when tremendous cheers resounded across the training ground.

“It’s because Grulga-san is my life benefactor. Now then, Instructor Broad, please help me with what I requested just now. Also, please gather the healers. Before that.”

I applied the same 4 magic that I applied on Grulga-san onto Instructor Broad.

” ... Luciel ... thank you.”

Immediately after I heard those words said in a whisper, Instructor Broad’s voice echoed across the Adventurer’s Guild.

“Those who want to be saved please line up properly. Those with injuries and those with abnormal statuses please line up separately. For Healers, apparently, the S-rank Healer would provide guidance on healing.”

After he announced only that, the lines began to form all at once.

“The person capable of organizing adventurers ... is that low-profile person who refused to be an officer huh.”

Lionel muttered with a weak smile as he looked at Instructor Broad and he looked slightly happy.

I began treating from those who looked like they were about to die whereas for the injured people, there weren't anyone else who needed treatment after 5 times of 「Area High Heal」.

“I'm supposed to do this the day after tomorrow but since there are many among you who do not understand the model to treating abnormal statuses, I will tell you all the image I use. If you memorize it by repetition after this, you'll be able to reach Holy attribute magic skill level X even while you're still young. So please learn it properly.”

Many of the ones I was teaching were young Healers and while they were overflowing with motivation, their skill level was low.

Even so, perhaps it's been a long time since I've carefully taught people, unexpectedly, I might have also wanted to have this kind of time as well.

While having such thoughts, around the time I finished treatment, I felt like I was about to reach magical power depletion for the first time after a long time but I somehow held out.

“Luciel, thank you for the hard work. You truly helped me this

time.”

Returning to his original bear-like Wolf beastman appearance, Grulga-san gave me words of appreciation while looking healthy and well.

“We help one another out in times of need. Leaving that aside, are you fine getting up so soon?”

“Yeah. Since my sturdy body is my only selling point.”

Normally, one should not be able to remain standing after losing that much blood but I realized that Grulga-san was a superhuman after all.

” ... Even so, for Grulga-san to suffer from that degree of injuries, wasn't it actually quite a crisis?”

“Well, yeah. Well, I'll make a feast to celebrate our reunion so stay for a meal before you leave.”

“Okay, I'll take up your offer ... by the way, Instructor Broad, what's the reason for the unusual amount of injuries?”

I turned from Grulga-san to Instructor Broad.

For the 2 of them to suffer from this degree of injuries is not normal at all.

It reminded me of our battle with the Demons.

” ... Monsters are overflowing from the labyrinth at Grandol. There are high ranking adventurers there so it was calm for a moment but the ripples reached Meratoni.”

“It doesn’t seem to be limited to that though?”

” ... Yeah. For some reason, the mines lead to Grandol so monsters flow towards here day after day with no end in sight.”

It was like saying the mines disappeared and Grandol came invading.

If it’s not dealt with properly, instead of the Empire, Grandol might wage war against Saint Schull’s Allied Nations. With that fact as a shield, I could imagine that the attack from Grandol would be a great opportunity for the other countries who lie about their allegiance.

“I only came to watch Lionel and Instructor’s mock battle though ...”

” ... Can I request of you?”

Instructor and the others were defeated because there wasn’t anyone to heal them.

Without that problem, there probably aren't any enemy they can't beat.

Thinking about safety, with Instructor Broad and Lionel forming a united front, I instantly realized that the risk I would face would nearly be zero.

"I'm not a disciple who will reject Instructor's request. Furthermore, this place is a special city to me. However, if Instructor and Lionel don't properly protect me, I won't be able to heal you all."

"Alright. Let's have a kickoff party that will last until tomorrow."

Thus, naming it as a kickoff party instead of a combat strategy meeting, we tasted Grulga-san's dinner while drinking mead to prepare our bodies for tomorrow's adventure.

Chapter 148: Strength Of A Different Dimension

The next day after the drinking party called a kickoff party, Instructor Broad and Grulga-san stopped me as I was about to drink Object X.

“Luciel, I’ll tell you honestly, it won’t be strange if your level increases by a lot. The monsters this time are that strong.”

“Object X is certainly effective but for Luciel who has been continually drinking it, it shouldn’t be that effective anymore?”

“That’s true but because my level has not been increasing since around the time I defeated the Red Dragon.”

It would be easy to ignore their advice but the 2 of them have once walked the sluggish level growth path where I was struggling on so there was value in listening to them.

“Relax, your level will definitely increase. This time, whether it’s magic strength or magical power amount, Luciel will have to continuously heal us after all.”

He didn’t tell me anything special but I somehow felt that my level would indeed rise.

But, at the same time, I could also read his thoughts.

” ... I’ll also have to maintain some reserve of magical power right?”

“Sorry but yes.”

There was a determination in Instructor Broad’s eyes.

“I understand. Well, please suppress the enemy so that I will not be targeted.”

“Leave it to me.”

We boarded the horse carriage and departed together with the other adventurers for the mine country border that has been lost.

“The vanguard will be Kefin and Instructor Broad, the second row will be Lionel and the third row will be Cathy and me as well as Estia, while the last row will be Grulga-san.”

” ... Is there a purpose for that setup?”

“Yes. I believe Shisho will not fall behind even against monsters that are fast while Kefin is able to detect and disarm traps.

Lionel specializes in close to middle-range attacks and his defense is tough too so he will be my guard in front of me.

To my left and right will be the quick-footed Cathy and Estia who is able to search for enemies whereas even if enemies come from behind, they will be more than enough to support Grulga-san.

With Grulga-san at the back, he will be able to view the overall balance of the whole party and I think that is the safest configuration for me.”

” ... It’s amazing how you are able to assert that so refreshingly. Good grief, your true nature never changes.”

Shisho’s cheek muscle was twitching slightly.

Since there weren’t any objections from my surroundings, maybe they have given up but I’d like to think that they felt that those were the best positions for them.

“That’s right, Instructor Broad. Because I still don’t want to die yet. Moreover, this is the best combat formation so that nobody dies.”

“Hou. You’ve become capable of making a good expression.”

He patted my shoulder while giving a different smile from just now and it felt like some other emotion was placed into that hand.

“That’s because I’ve been strictly training him for this one year

in place of Whirlwind.”

Lionel declared confidently and it was clearly a provocation.

“Sen’oni, I believe I’ve already mentioned yesterday that I was the one who laid the foundation.”

For some reason, their competition about their disciple had been going on since yesterday.

I bet they’re on good terms with each other.

That’s what I thought.

It would probably take some time before this ends so I decided to ask what I wanted to ask first.

“Now then, we ended up not talking about monsters much yesterday so in the end, do the monsters that overflow out of the labyrinth transform into magic stones after they are defeated?”

“They won’t. Of course, the corpses would remain so there would be magic stones but it’s better to think of them as regular monsters.”

Even though they come from the labyrinth? Is something else needed for it to happen?

Or does the labyrinth give birth to monsters from within the memories of Galdardia? I'm getting more and more confused.

If other people were transferred too ... I thought up to that point before sealing that thought within myself.

I had a cryptic premonition that it would really become true if I voiced it out in words.

" ... But if the monsters are defeated outdoors, won't the smell of blood excite monsters and more and more would gather from a wide area?"

"We have no choice but to burn herbs from the Herbalist Guild to scatter the smell ..."

It seemed like he had something come to mind.

Even so, I was wondering why the Magician Guild did not develop a magic to do that.

" ... I'll purify the site when I reach there. I'll treat the injured next and annihilating the enemies will come after that ... if the enemies would wait for me though."

I prayed that nobody would die even if people get injured as I swayed along with the carriage.

However, there weren't any indications of us arriving at all.

“Incidentally, how long would this journey take?”

“Oh. It would take about half a day at this speed.”

I made light of the distance thinking that it would be unexpectedly near seeing the carriage move at a leisurely pace but I should have confirmed the fact beforehand.

I told everyone to get off after I heard that.

“It was the right choice to clarify my doubt early. We'll proceed after we transfer to another carriage.”

“It should be the same regardless of what carriage we ride.”

“You'll understand after we transfer. I may not like to go to dangerous places but I also hate to let others die for no good reason.”

Shisho and Grulga-san were puzzled at my words but they were immediately convinced after we exchanged the carriage for the one we usually rode on.

After that, we ended up pulling ahead and left the other adventurers behind but human lives were at stake so I didn't compromise either.

Well, the destination didn't change so it shouldn't be a problem.

“Wouldn't it have cost quite a sum of money to construct something like this?”

Shisho and Grulga-san looked anxious but it's indeed true that it would be expensive if I ordered it normally from Dolan.

While imagining so, I honestly replied Shisho who was paying an undue amount of attention to it and Grulga-san who was slightly concerned too.

“It requires magic stones but this was something built by the Technology Development Department of Luciel Company so the cost was only magic stones and Treant trees.”

” ... In addition to being a Healer and the Representative for Ienith, you've been doing various other stuff too?”

“Well, it's the result of the natural course of events and good luck after getting entangled in situations.”

I replied with a laugh as Shisho gave a surprised expression.

I didn't show any other expressions apart from that.

As if we transferred from a local train to an express train, we

could proceed without stopping and approached the mine in about 3 hours instead of half a day.

“Make a carriage like this for me too after this.”

“Sure. But we’ll be walking from here.”

I could see flying objects approaching from afar.

We immediately descended from the carriage and Shisho and Grulga-san were shocked when I collected the carriage and stored the horses in the Hermit’s Stable.

“That’s the Hermit Series!?”

“Even though we only found 1 after our long years of adventuring, to have already found one, you sure possess strong luck.” It’s not strong luck but Great Luck though.

“Well, I was lucky.”

“Luck ... if that’s the case then you should hold on to this.”

It was a worn out key.

“Shisho, this is?”

When I held out the key that Shisho was grasping in surprise, Shisho told me the name of the key.”

“It’s the Hermit’s Coffin from the Hermit Series.”

Coffin? Coffin?!

“It somehow sounds like a cursed name though?”

“Kukuku. Well, that’s how it is. You can only put people who have lost consciousness in here.”

Because it’s a coffin?

“Unconscious? Meaning even in the middle of sleep?”

“Yes. But once their consciousness returns, regardless of the situation outside, the key would open and they would be expelled out.”

Meaning it is an item either for brain dead or paralyzed people or to allow people to suddenly appear while fighting bosses?

But if that’s the case, would time stop if I store it in the item bag?

No, the Hermit’s Stable is fine even if I place it in the item bag but I’ll need to verify what would happen if I did so with this key.

” ... Have you used it before?”

” ... Only once. But, I just can’t think of a way to make use of this. That’s why I’ll entrust it to you Luciel. If it’s you, you’ll be able to use it well. That’s what I think.”

It felt like Shisho pushed the key to me in a way such that he could not see it but I didn’t understand why.

” ... Understood. I’ll humbly use it.”

“Yeah. Well then, shall we shoot that flying monster down?”

“Yes.”

Looking at the flying lion that was right before our eyes, I immediately activated 「Area Barrier」 and everyone moved all at once.

“Luciel-sama, please give me a spear that is alright to toss.”

Reacting to Lionel’s words, I tossed him the Holy Silver Spear, Lionel grabbed it and threw it at the flying lion in almost no time at all.

It flew with amazing momentum but because there was some distance, the flying lion evaded it ... and its wing was cut and it fell

down.

For a moment, I could see Shisho's figure but it disappeared immediately, Lionel swung his Flame Greatsword and a vortex of flame fell on the lion at once, the instant it had a direct hit, the flames disappeared along with a blast and the lion's head and body separated.

“Well, it's something like this? Sen'oni, I see you're quite capable at subjugating monsters.”

“You're speed and sword technique doesn't seem to have rusted either, Whirlwind.”

Both of them showed the strength of a different dimension but there was something that caught my eye.

“Lionel, you've become stronger way too suddenly. You weren't that strong during the fight with the Red Dragon or the Demon?”

“During the Red Dragon battle, I was not in my regular condition and there was also the worry of breaking the equipment. The other day, there was a possibility that I would destroy the village if I released my full strength but there wasn't any such restriction this time.”

” ... Do you feel pain in your body?”

“There's no pain.”

That kind of movement was possible because his intent to not lose to Instructor Broad overrode his brain's restriction on movements in fear of injuries.

That might be the reason.

It's as if he's on the verge of awakening to become a person who hates to lose.

“Luciel, you have no comments for me?”

“I already recognize Shisho as an inhuman person. However, I wonder just what kind of enemy would be able to inflict injuries on Shisho who is so strong.”

It was Grulga-san who answered my question instead of Instructor Broad.

“Three Chimeras which are stronger than the Manticore that has fallen down over there appeared. Even Broad can't fight at full strength while protecting the adventurers.”

“And yet Grulga you were also bravely volunteering your body to act as a wall to help the adventurers which was why you were at death's door so who are you to comment.”

Maybe because he didn't intend for it to be exposed to me, they

were finding faults in each other like in a children's fight.

It seems that rather than the strength of the enemy, these 2 were injured to that extent because they were protecting the adventurers.

Even so, have the adventurers not been given Object X to drink lately?

“Instructor Broad and Grulga-san drank Object X in the past right?”

My remark caused the air to solidify.

Then, for some reason, the 2 began to exchange eye contact but I understood that they wanted to avert the topic so I reluctantly asked something else simpler.

” ... I feel that it would have been solved instantly if you 2 subjugated it while other high-rank adventurers gave support but was that not possible?”

” ... Chimeras are sly so they aim for the weak. Moreover, it would have been all right if those were the only monsters but, we also only knew about it a little later, there were quite a number of monsters that cause status abnormalities. The adventurers were needed to suppress those monsters.”

I honestly felt that it would be best to quickly reach that

dangerous site and secure the safety of the area.

As far as I know, there isn't any enemy that the strongest Shisho and his rival the awakened Lionel can't defeat.

I genuinely thought so.

"Then, shall we quicken the pace?"

Without being able to hold down my high spirits, I stored the Manticore in my magic bag and began running.

However, their pacing was quicker than mine so they immediately lined up with me and formed the formation I designated.

I continued running while laughing.

10 minutes later, we reached the entrance to the mine but I found that the ground at only that location had disappeared as if it had sunken in.

I discovered as we gradually approached that what awaited me was not monsters but a large sealed door.

Chapter 149: Request

Adventurers, Garba-san and Warabis who I honestly didn't consider capable of contributing as combat strength were exterminating the monsters.

We plunged into the monster horde as if intending to run through them and while I didn't touch anything at all, a mountain of corpses was formed.

The adventurers worked together to collect the mountain of corpses.

The scene was so terribly smelly that I wished for rain to fall and wash away everything but clear weather was spread across the skies so my expectations were dashed.

Therefore, I advanced while applying purification magic but, as to be expected, I couldn't help but hold my head from the thoughts of the effort required to erase the unusual mountain of corpses and its smell at the very front line.

“Grulga!! You're safe?”

Garba-san passed by in front of my eyes before I knew it and hugged Grulga-san.

Since he found out that his younger brother was on the verge of death immediately after he returned from Ienith, I believe many of

the monsters suffered from terrible deaths.

It was obvious from the deathly expression on Warabis's face.

He most likely kept Grulga-san's slave Warabis around so that he would know when Grulga-san dies.

I could see that his thorough personality has been further polished since Ienith.

“Yeah. I was kept alive by Luciel.”

Garba-san reacted to Grulga-san's words and looked over here as he thanked me with a smile.

He was worried about Grulga-san to the point that he did not notice my face just now.

“Luciel-kun, thank you so much for helping Grulga.”

“We help each other out in times of need. I was indebted to you in Ienith.”

He was making a seriously delighted expression but I felt that he was a really dutiful person as Grulga-san is my benefactor after all.

“That's right. Everyone was sad that you couldn't send us off.

You did well to grasp the hearts of that many beastmen.”

” ... That’s because of the help I received from the 2 of you.”

I confirmed the situation while still regretting bringing up the topic that I didn’t want to touch.

However, Garba-san looked at Instructor Broad with a sharp glint in his eyes.

“Moving on from that, Broad, it’s good that the Chimera was defeated but stop neglecting command and plunging into the fray to defeat it like that. It’s a nuisance.”

“You don’t have to glare at me like that. So, what’s the current situation?”

Shisho too ... he most likely snapped when his companion Grulga-san became a bloody mass but I suppose that is a disqualification as a commander.

Well, I could immediately tell that Garba-san was not seriously mad.

Since I totally couldn’t sense any bloodthirst or anger.

Instructor Broad also understood that and quickly confirmed the situation.

As far as I could see in our surroundings, the people were no longer fighting monsters but seemed to be stripping off materials.

“Monsters are gathering from the surroundings but there aren’t any monsters that are that strong and the monsters that crawled out from the mine afterward weren’t anything special apart from their status abnormality attacks.”

It looked like the situation had mostly calmed down but are they still planning to remain in this location?

I complied to Instructor Broad’s commands and watched over the location.

“I see. So then, was that raccoon dog useful?”

“Uh huh ... slightly?”

Warabis’s ability was to transform but he ends up instantly reverting to his original form.

I couldn’t understand how that would be useful so I interrupted the conversation.

“I desperately burned herbs that would dissipate the smell pu~. I didn’t want to be scolded anymore pu~.”

... Warabis who's personality hadn't changed much replied.

“Warabis, how is life as a slave?”

“There no way slave life would be comfy ... wait, why is Saint-sama here pu~?”

Warabis trembled just from the words I spoke.

I was shocked as to why he trembled to that extent.

“I'm not a Saint, my term in Ienith ended so I returned to Meratoni.”

“It's a nightmare pu~. Immediately after Garba returns, even the pale light emitting demon also appears ...”

I couldn't pick up on what Warabis muttered like a whisper but apparently Kefin and Cathy heard it and they directed sharp gazes at him.

I decided to stop devoting any more time and emotions into Warabis.

Then, I found the sealed door that I saw from a distance.

Why is it on a flat ground ... I really couldn't wrap my head

around why it was outdoors as I confirmed the situation.

” ... When did the monsters withdraw from this site?”

Instructor Broad and Garba-san reacted to my words and Instructor Broad replied me.

” ... I wonder, the monsters came from Grandol so perhaps the adventurers there annihilated the monsters that were excited? The strong monsters from the mine have been defeated so I think this place will be calm for now.”

It can't be helped that I asked as I don't want to die.

Leaving that aside, what do we do about that?

There was only one choice for me to choose.

“For now, there's no need to go around for healing duty right?”

“Yeah. It looks like somehow there aren't any who suffered from any severe injuries. Why do you ask?”

“There's a large door there but is there anyone who can see it?”

Everyone looked in the direction I pointed at but the reaction was extremely weak.

“Luciel-sama, don’t tell me?”

Kefin was the first to realize.

Lionel and the others also looked at me with surprise but I wanted them to know that I was the one who was the most surprised.

“Yeah. A sealed door.”

“Luciel, what’s there? What sealed door? Please explain in detail.”

I thought that as a guildmaster, Instructor Broad would know but apparently not.

I thought that it was fine to explain if it’s Shisho and I was about to speak but I saw Estia and Warabis so I stopped my explanation.

” ... Firstly, I won’t talk with Warabis here. I can’t talk about this other than to people I trust.”

“I guess it’s a grave topic? If that’s the case, I’ll grab Warabis and leave.”

“Sorry Garba-san. Sorry, but Estia, could you leave too?”

“Yes. Understood.”

Garba-san grabbed the scruff of Warabis’s neck and left and Estia left following that.

I still didn’t think that I would not be betrayed by Estia.

I planned to convey to them official information besides information on the sealed door.

Before that, I decided to use pledges that I prepared in advance.

“Not only Instructor Broad and Grulga-san, I want everyone to pledge. The compensation is a few minutes of memories starting from now. You will instantly lose these memories if you try to tell this to anyone in any way.”

“Understood. I have a right to know as a guildmaster.”

Instructor Broad said that and everyone took the pledge.

After the pledges ended, I began explaining.

“The sealed doors are doors that connect to the location where the dragons are sealed at. After I dispel the seal on the dragon, a large magic stone will appear around here. Please promise that absolutely nobody will touch it. If you don’t keep that promise,

everyone will die.”

” ... I don’t really get it but is there a curse placed on that magic stone or is it something extremely important to Luciel?”

It’s indeed true that it can’t be helped if they think of obtaining the magic stone.

I would have had the same thoughts if I did not see that scene in the past.

“No ... It’s just that the Evil God will appear and everything around the magic stone will turn into undead. That’s all.”

???!!!!

Including Lionel and the others who knew about the circumstances, everyone could not hide their shock when I affirmed that.

“If that’s the case, wouldn’t it be alright if we just leave that sealed dragon alone? If we do so then it will end with nobody dying right?”

“I’ve thought of that too but unfortunately, if we do so, the world would be overrun by demons and monsters before the hero is born.”

I knew that Instructor Broad is a good person but precisely because he is a good person that I had to put a lid on his wish to escape from the door in front of him.

I've also considered not talking about this to Lionel and the others.

Astonishment once again gripped the air as I gave a weak smile.

"... Why are you stepping into such a dangerous place?"

"Only because I dispelled the seal on a dragon during a natural course of events. From then on, I moved within the range of what I am capable of doing."

I patted my chest and smiled.

"... I see. You've become a real adventurer without me noticing."

"If this is a real adventurer, I very much wish to be a fake one by all means."

I felt that Instructor Broad made some kind of resolve but it only lasted for an instant before it transformed into a smile.

"I see ... all right. Leave this place to me."

“Please do so. Nevertheless, everyone, if anybody else approaches it, please cut them down to the extent of not killing them. Since I’ll just heal them after that.”

“””Yes!”””

“Well then, before I purify the place, I’ll promptly dispel the seal.”

I announced as I began walking towards the sealed door.

There weren’t any monsters around the door and it felt like it was waiting for my arrival.

“I don’t want to touch it but I have no choice. I pray that it’s a meek dragon if possible.”

I placed a prayer as I touched the door and it began to suck in my magical power.

“Gushing yellow? Meaning it should be a Thunder Dragon?”

As that thought ran through my head, a pattern emerged and the door began to open.

Even when I turned back to confirm, I could tell from their faces that all of them could not see it after all.

I dived into the door with a single hand held up and the door slowly closed, causing my exit to disappear completely.

Unlike the usual flight of stairs, down the aisle, I could see a dragon lying on its side while discharging blue, yellow and black lightning.

“If this is a trap, I’m confident that I would easily die multiple times.”

I gingerly but surely advanced forward, as I was about to reach the range of my magic circle, a voice rang out in my brain.

《Liberator who dispels the seal of the Evil God. Having dispelled the curse on Holy Dragon, Flame Dragon and Earth Dragon, have you come to dispel my seal this time?》

It seemed like the voice belonged to the Thunder Dragon.

Leaving that aside, it’s strange.

“You’ve retained consciousness despite being sealed?”

《Because I was the last of the dragon race to be sealed, it’s troublesome but I have some time.》

Indeed, as far as I could see, there was no muddy black miasma covering its body.

I felt slightly at ease as this meant that I would probably not be attacked.

Since I had this chance, I tried asking some questions.

“I see. Then would it be all right if I asked some questions?”

《Sure. The Liberator has the right to know everything.》

The Thunder Dragon looked like it was lazy but it was apparently willing to answer my questions and turned to face me.

“Then I’ll jump right into it, how many seals are there?”

《There are 8. Once you release me, there would be 4 remaining seals.》

“Meaning Light, Darkness, Water and Wind?”

《Yes. Furthermore, there are 6 Spirits. That is necessary information for becoming a Sage.》

” ... You know about it?”

If the condition to become a Sage is to have the blessings from all Spirits and Dragons, I would definitely not want to do so though ...

《We reincarnation dragons know everything.》

“If that’s true, what should I do so that the Evil God will not appear from the magic stone that is left after the dragons are released?”

Now, I am certainly going to confront it but I thought that if I could overcome it, it would be great that no other undead would be born anymore.

However, the Thunder Dragon instantly told me that it could not be done so easily.

《What’s left in the deepest part of the labyrinth is not a magic stone but the nucleus of the labyrinth. Touching it will call the administrator of the labyrinth.》

... What an unreasonable world.

“Are there no countermeasures? Like letting the other Gods know about the Evil God’s movements to stop it.”

《The labyrinth will disappear the moment the nucleus is brought to the outside.》

“What would happen to this place then? The mine has sunken in so the sealed door is outdoors.”

«? That's strange. This Labyrinth of Plots in Grandol shouldn't have collapsed.»

“I entered this door from the ruins of the mine that leads from the City of Meratoni in Saint Schull Allied Nations to Grandol.”

« ... If that's the case, this presence ... Quickly resolve my seal and head to the labyrinth in Grandol.»

The Thunder Dragon suddenly stood up and his electrical discharge was going off here and there.

As expected, I didn't think that I would be able to prevent electrical shocks so I somehow laid down flat.

“Uwa!! That's dangerous. What are you doing so suddenly?”

Luckily, I was not grazed by the discharge and I successfully evaded them.

«If this continues, the Priestess will be in danger. Hurry.»

It gave a heartbreaking cry.

It was as if a voice of worry towards one's beloved family.

” ... Where would I appear if I exit here?”

《You should return to the original location. Quickly go to the Grandol labyrinth, dive into the Labyrinth of Plots and save her!!》

Electrical discharge once again surged as the Thunder Dragon’s tension rose.

“Like I’ve said it’s dangerous!! I’ll go home without releasing you, you know.”

《Do not stop the gear of fate. You have to save the Priestess.》

The gear of fate ... it intends to move some kind of gear but I’ve decided to do what I am capable of.

As one might expect, I felt that a world where adventurers hold sway over the world would be easier to live in compared to a world where demons and monsters hold sway over the world.

” ... I can’t promise you but I will do my best.”

《Show me that you are capable of overcoming the difficulties.》

I activated 「Sanctuary Circle」. It should be going through considerable pain but looking at the unperturbed Thunder Dragon, I felt that I was lucky it ended without a fight as the black lightning discharge gradually disappeared.

“Kukuku. Liberator, I will entrust to you my blessing and my strength. Take out that cane on your waist.”

When I held out the Illusionary Cane, light from the Thunder Dragon was absorbed into the Illusionary Cane.

” ... I’m sorry for dragging you into this. Please protect the Priestess’s future.”

“So it is possible for dragons to appeal for help.”

“Luciel, you are our knight. Now, protect the world’s equilibrium. I have fulfilled my pledge ... Rafiluna ... ”

Just as I somewhat heard the Thunder Dragon mutter some kind of name, pain ran through my body.

“GuaaAAA 「High Heal」.”

After the Thunder Dragon collapsed, lightning ran through the entirety of the room.

” ... I truly thought that I would die.”

As I almost died from the omnidirectional lightning souvenir, as reparation, I collected all the items from the Thunder Dragon’s room.

There were items and gold there but I held my head at the thought that it was the management room of the labyrinth and jumped into the magic circle that appeared.

As I was wrapped in light, the usual mechanical voice announced my acquisition of a title.

Ping 【Title: Thunder Dragon's Blessing acquired.】

I opened my eyes when the light faded.

It seemed like I was transferred to a location slightly away from where the door was at.

As I was assessing the situation, Shisho and Lionel and the others came running over.

“Did you safely defeat the dragon?”

“Luciel-sama, welcome back.”

Without answered the 2 voices, I moved to keep my promise with the Thunder Dragon.

“We will head to Grandol's labyrinth immediately. Shisho, Lionel, everyone, please lend me your strength.”

Everyone was daunted for a moment by my sudden remark but replies immediately came.

“Quickly bring out the carriage. It seems like you’re in a hurry?”

“We are Luciel-sama’s retainers so we will accompany you.”

“Truly, thank you.”

Garba-san and Grulga-san remained at the site while the remaining people accompanied me.

“We’ll try to return quickly if possible so please wait for us.”

“If it is possible, it will be great if you conquer that labyrinth.”

“There are bento inside here so eat them later.”

Thanking Garba-san and Grulga-san for their kindness, together with my reliable friends, we departed for the Labyrinth Nation Grandol.

Chapter 150: Labyrinth Nation Grandol

We lightly cut through the vacant mine site and entered Grandol territory.

Normally, we would have to make a huge detour and go through the checking station for the entry procedure but this time, the Grandol operation was organized by the Adventurer's Guild headquarters so I decided to use the shortest route.

I made my decision after the backing of Instructor Broad.

“Because I, as a guildmaster, am around, there won't be any problems. Moreover, it's an emergency right? If it's for that then I'll just write a written explanation.”

While feeling grateful for Shisho's words, I also presumed upon his kindness.

It was great that we would enter Grandol territory following this but a single problem surfaced.

” ... It's a little late now but, does anyone know where the Labyrinth of Traps is located at?”

“I don't. I was an adventurer in the past but I was more of a complete requests type of adventurer than a labyrinth diving kind.”

Receiving Shisho's reply, I looked at my surroundings and saw that all of them were not familiar with labyrinths so I suggested for us to go to the nearest village or town to ask.

"Let's ask about labyrinths around this area."

"It's true that there should be multiple labyrinths in large and small sizes in Grandol but ... there shouldn't be any nearby."

So we have no choice but to run in a straight line and hope to reach a highway huh?

" ... Sorry for rushing everyone. I also don't really know why I am in such a hurry but let's first look for a highway."

Everyone quietly nodded with a smile but I couldn't help but think that those eyes were like gazes from parents watching the growth of their child.

Currently, Cathy and Kefin were the carriage drivers but we decided that if we see any buildings or people, Shisho will take over as the coachman and Lionel will act as the escort as a single horse rider.

After riding the carriage for about an hour from the ruins of the mine where we departed from, we finally found a highway.

However, the same time we gazed at where the highway would lead to, we confirmed the presence of a fort-like construction far

off to the right side.

” ... Hey hey. That was way too much of a shortcut.”

It seemed like Shisho was familiar with the fort.

But the unpleasant expression he made concerned me.

“Does Shisho know what is that place?”

“Yeah. That is the country border. The fort that separates Grandol and the Principality of Blange ... in other words, the country boundary line.”

“Would something like that even be useful?”

“That was constructed by heroes who were summoned so it will not collapse easily and it was apparently built in anticipation for when monsters overflow from Grandol.”

In anticipation of this time’s incident? Or ... summoned heroes as in people from Earth? No, it might be safer to consider that there are life forms from other dimensions.

However, it doesn’t matter now.

If Shisho knows about that then ...

“So it seems you know where we are now?”

“Yeah. If we proceed on this highway towards the left, we would arrive at the center of Grandol in a few hours judging by this carriage’s speed.”

“Then let’s go.”

Everyone agreed and we changed course to the left and resumed our travel.

At that time, for some reason it felt like the hair behind me was being pulled back and I was being stopped but I prioritized the request from the Thunder Dragon to find the Labyrinth of Traps.

We took a lunch break there but no adventurers and, of course, no monsters approached us.

We swapped Instructor Broad to be the coachman and set off.

After traveling for a while, we began passing by carriages and adventurers.

“Luciel, from here on there will be a lot of adventurers but there will also be many who hate Healers. It’s true that you did revise the treatment fee for Healers but keep in mind that only applies to within Saint Schull Allied Nations.”

Shisho turned around from the driver seat and informed me.

So people would not have heard of my name and I'll once again face the baptism of being an 'away' party?

Well, Lionel and the others would properly guard me so it'll most likely be all right.

While I had that thought, I was also able to discover the breadth of Shisho's caliber who is capable of being nonchalantly attentive.

I carved into my heart to not bring shame to such a person and set my goal to someday overtake him.

"Thank you for the advice. But, well, it will be all right. Since I am also an Adventurer."

"I see."

After I replied with a smile, Shisho also smiled and faced forward as he spurred the horse carriage on.

Then, at about 15 o'clock when I was beginning to feel hungry, we finally arrived at Grandol.

"This is Grandol. The carriage will be a hindrance so until we find out the location for the Labyrinth of Traps, please store it in

the magic bag. After that, let's go to the guild headquarters first."

"Okay."

I acknowledged and after storing the horses and carriage, I chased after Instructor Broad.

The scale of Grandol's Adventurer's Guild wasn't any larger compared to the Adventurer's Guilds I have seen till this date but I realized that there was an insanely large facility behind the building.

"What's the building over there?"

"That's the guild headquarters. Well, only guildmasters or employees can enter or exit though."

"I see."

"Incidentally, that's also the place where we measure how much Object X has been consumed."

Instructor Broad announced with a grin but to be honest, I don't obtain anything from that so I was not interested.

"Instructor Broad, if so then give me a yearly prize for drinking Object X."

“If I could do that, we’ll likely be in first place every year as long as you are alive.”

“You don’t have to give such a bitter smile. Ha~. Leaving that aside, let’s go ask about the location of the Labyrinth of Traps.”

“Ou.”

We entered the Adventurer’s Guild with Instructor Broad in the lead.

Upon entering the Adventurer’s Guild after opening the door, there were a lot of adventurers but perhaps the fighting with the monsters intensified here as well, there were many wounded individuals.

” ... Luciel, will you treat these people?”

” ... I’ll comply if it’s Shisho’s order. But, to be honest, I don’t want to treat the injuries of people who are glaring at the robe I’m wearing.”

“Hah. I see.”

“Did I say something funny?”

“No, you just no longer fear adventurers you don’t know more than I had imagined.”

“Yeah. Since Instructor Broad and Lionel are around now.”

I frankly spoke the truth with a smile.

“No more delicately fussy replies?”

“That’s in the past. More importantly.”

“Tch, I know.”

It would be a hindrance if all of us went so Instructor Broad and Kefin went to the reception and I left the information gathering to them.

There were 2 people waiting at the table that was immediately beside the place where we entered but I chanced upon some unexpected information.

“Hey, have you heard the rumor about the Labyrinth of Traps?”

“Why are you being so flustered? What happened in that labyrinth full of traps?”

“The talk about those Nadia and Lydia sisters being brought in as criminal slaves.”

“Seriously? I can’t imagine those 2 committing any crime but above that, will those 2 obediently remain caught?”

“The elder sister is an elegant swordswoman and the younger sister is a spirit-user right?”

“Maybe they fell into a trap after they formed a party to conquer the labyrinth?”

“Ah~ah. It’s plausible if that’s what happened. But, it seems like it would cost a considerable sum to purchase those 2.”

“It would be an auction right if it’s those 2.”

“That’s a story that doesn’t concern us.”

It felt like I was pressed for a decision from the conversation between those adventurers.

To head to the Labyrinth of Traps like this, save the Dragon Priestess and discover the core of the labyrinth without touching it.

Or, head to the Labyrinth of Traps after purchasing the Spirit-user.

At the time of listening to the talk about the Spirit-user ... no, from slightly before I even entered Meratoni, I have a feeling that

Great Luck-sensei has been showing me the way.

Thinking up to that point, I spoke out.

“You guys heard the conversation between the other adventurers right? It’s possible that the Spirit-user might be of aid to us in the future. So I will purchase her. It’s possible that her elder sister might also be a similar individual too.”

“You’re completely just a soft-hearted person nya.”

” ... From the conversation, it seems like it would be an auction so I’ll decide without hesitation if we will head for the labyrinth first or participate in the auction first before heading to the labyrinth after confirming the date and time of the auction.”

“Luciel-sama is always so kind.”

” ... Sorry for abusing my power.”

Everyone put up bitter smiles when I lowered my head.

Just nice at that time, Instructor Broad and Kefin returned.

“The Labyrinth of Traps is to the north of here, a distance of about 1-hour ride by carriage.”

“If we set off immediately, we should arrive by evening. However, the troublesome part is that the so-called Labyrinth of Traps is full of traps and it appears that it would take some time to conquer.”

” ... I see. It would be better if we procure food ingredients. Shisho, apart from this, another place came up that I wish to stop by.”

“Where? The guild headquarters is, as to be expected, impossible though.”

“Haha. I certainly want to visit that place but actually, I want to drop by a slave auction.”

” ... Luciel going to a slave auction huh ... is there something there?”

” ... I don't know yet. If I am to believe the words of the dragon, I have to head for the labyrinth immediately though.”

” ... This time, I'm tagging along for the sake of observing my disciple's growth and training. So trust your own intuition without regard to anything else.”

“Yes.”

I replied Shisho and head towards the adventurers who were conversing just now.

Then, I asked in a straightforward manner.

“Could you tell me more about the slaves and slave auction you were talking about earlier? If you tell me, I’ll treat those injuries as payment.”

While I was smiling, standing behind me were Instructor Broad and Lionel who were releasing overwhelming intimidation so needless to say ...

Thus, we amicably succeeded in asking the adventurers about the slave merchant and slave auction.

Chapter 151: Slave Merchant And The Rumoured Adventurer Sisters

We've heard about the location of the slave dealer and we headed towards the slave dealer but going in with all of our members would, as expected, be seen as intimidation towards the slave merchant so the ones to enter the shop would be me, Lionel and Estia.

"If that's the case, I'll standby outside. Since these guys are likely to get caught in bad situations if only slaves wait outside."

"There's no transfer of information here nya."

"I'll also investigate slightly more on the Labyrinth of Traps."

"Shisho, please look after the 2 of them."

I nodded to Cathy and Kefin's words and stepped into the slave dealership after entrusting the 2 of them to Instructor Broad.

"Welcome. Oya, it's been a long time since a Healer came to our shop."

I imagined a shady guy to be the shop owner but ... I was taken aback by the smartly-dressed man carrying a youthful atmosphere who entered the hall.

“I’m surprised you can tell that I’m a Healer?”

“Of course. Healers have been our loyal customers up until a couple of years back.”

I thought for an instant that the robe I was wearing was exposed but my intuition told me that wasn’t the case.

Well, if there truly has been a Healer who came by the slave dealership, I’d like to ask for his/her name.

Was it strange to think that way? Just by thinking about it made me melancholic so I entered the main topic.

” ... I see. Actually, I’ve heard on the streets that a famous pair of adventurer sisters have been turned into slaves so I’ve come here to search for them.”

“Hou. You’ve caught wind of it quickly ... well, they will be exhibited during today’s auction so you can get more details at that time.”

“Sorry but please allow me to converse with them for a while. I will decide after that if I want to buy or not.”

I negotiated for a conversation with 1 gold coin as a tip.

Money is important but this time, I judged that it was a battle

against time.

“Uh huh. Oh well, I guess it’s fine. But, please do not reveal the condition of the commodity.”

With my use of a gold coin, the man easily yielded to my request to have a short interview.

“Yeah. I understand. I swear that I will not reveal the condition of the adventurer sisters to anybody apart from my party.”

” ... This way please.”

“Lionel, I leave it to you.”

“Yes!”

I planned to have Lionel check if they seem strong and competent as I followed after the back of the slave merchant with me in the lead.

I was slightly bothered by why the male slave merchant would allow me to immediately meet the sisters but I guess he decided that their value would not change even if I am allowed to see them.

However, even if I did not ask that man for the answer, I instantly knew the reason when we arrived at the sister’s prison.

While being guided by the slave merchant, there were also employees who led us through the prison but I was surprised by the slaves who acted in a way that gave us the false sense of being a distinguished personage.

It can be said to feel as if we were in a high-class pet shop but instead of dogs and cat, it dealt in humans.

“Please don’t make such a mystified expression. It’s just a means to sell the commodities at a higher price.”

Just like that, until we arrived at the sisters’ prison, I felt a clear difference in class between this place and the slave dealership in Ienith.

It was clean in any of the prisons and from the decked out clothes to the grade of food that shows fine management, it gave off a sense of professionalism where they considered the value of the slaves as commodities and pursued the method to implement and put into practice how expensive they could be sold for.

It was my first time experiencing such a feeling since I came to this world.

If Dolan and the others are manufacturing professionals, this man here is probably a professional businessman.

Rather than the slaves, I ended up being more interested as to who this man really was.

From the high-class slaves, the grade steadily dropped until the final prison where the rumored sisters were.

The adventurer sisters appearing at the auction this time would most likely play the role of the star attraction from the value of their name.

However, looking at the sisters, I could not imagine them being sold as slaves and I was convinced as to why the man had me agree to the condition to not reveal their current state.

Painful traces of stab marks on their eyes, ears cut off, inflamed scalp with no hair remaining, torn off arms that have been petrified and feet undergoing necrosis perhaps due to circulating poison.

I was shocked to the extent that I could not raise a voice upon seeing the sisters and I would have normally immediately applied 「Extra Heal」 in situations like this but I struggled to suppress the strong urge that was driving me.

Looking at the 2 of them, feelings of immense sadness and nostalgia(?) burst out, I felt my eyes turn hot for some reason and it was hard for me to look at them directly.

“It was until yesterday that these 2 were known as beautiful sisters. I am told they were betrayed by their companions and the place they fled to had a trap that they fell into with apparently a hydra in it. Although they somehow escaped, along the way, when

they were exhausted, they were caught by the adventurers who betrayed them.”

” ... Then aren't they illegal slaves?”

“The problem comes after that. After they left the labyrinth, they killed the adventurers. Furthermore, new adventurers who were not related at all were dragged into the fight.”

” ... The new adventurers met with misfortune huh?”

The new adventurers were most probably asked to approach the sister who could no longer see.

The ones who met with misfortune were the new adventurers and the sisters so the fiend was the one who sold them to the slave dealer.

I decided to have Instructor Broad investigate this information after the auction had ended and impose punishment.

“Yeah. But they were in this condition after all. They most likely could not judge. The adventurers captured them and they came in while in that condition. They can't even be recognized as women anymore ...”

If that's the case then I don't understand why they had to be so relentless as to drive them to this extent.

“I see. So can they speak?”

“That’s impossible. They are alive but they are in a mysterious state ... I won’t return your gold just because you can’t have a conversation with them.”

With cuts on their throats, I understood that they were not in a condition to talk normally.

“Yeah. I won’t ask you to return it. So what time is the auction today? And can I even participate in the auction?”

” ... You plan to purchase these 2?”

The slave dealer’s poker face crumbled.

“As expected ... if it’s an auction then there should be outstanding items and competent slaves right?”

“Ah, I see. I’ll write you a letter of introduction then.”

When he determined that I won’t buy them after all, his expression returned.

“Okay. Also, just in case, would you allow me to talk for just a moment?”

“Sure. Please call me when you are done.”

I was judged to be a whimsical guy ... his eyes gave me that kind of feeling.

“That’s quite a great deal of trust in me.”

“Fufufu. What I trust in is not you but my eyes. Furthermore ... no, nothing. Once you’re done, please come to the entrance.”

” ”

The male slave dealer had substantial confidence in his eyes in judging people ... or he pretends to have as Lionel gave me the sign telling me that there are eyes monitoring us.

The man returned to the entrance of the shop without noticing the sign.

I spoke to the sisters in the jail in an audible voice.

“My name is Luciel. The holder of blessings from dragons and spirits. Do you 2 possess blessings?”

“” “”

The 2 of them stiffened while remaining alert ... or rather, they were probably enduring their fear as their vision and hearing were broken.

“Probably not only their vision but also their hearing have been completely broken.”

Lionel’s examination was consistent with mine.

” ... Estia, for the time being, please communicate with spirits and try to talk with them. If it’s impossible then it can’t be helped. So, Lionel, were there any usable talents in this slave dealership?”

While requesting for Estia to talk with the younger sister who is a Spirit-user if possible, Lionel directed his consciousness to me.

” ... About 2 people.”

“I see. Then maybe I’ll talk to those 2 on the way back. Perhaps they may become our strength in the future.”

” ... Those 2 people are the sisters.”

” ... It’s okay to not take my feelings into consideration you know?”

I looked at the 2 of them but I could not grasp the extent of their strength.

“Yes. The elder sister seems to have trained a considerable amount as a swordswoman and if the younger sister is, in fact, a Spirit-user, she should be able to use immense power.”

“All right. So I’ll buy these 2 huh? Well, if she’s a Spirit-user, I only fear that she would be able to dispel the slave crest using spirits.”

I could not tell as to how he determined those points.

Even so, I decided to trust Lionel.

“It’ll just mean that it wasn’t destined to be when that time comes.”

“Okay. If that’s the case, tonight we’ll participate in the auction and tomorrow morning we will head for the Labyrinth of Traps.”

“Yes!”

When Lionel and I talked to that point, I felt Estia stagger slightly.

“Estia, did she say something?”

” ... The younger sister said that if you intend to buy her, she will not want it unless the elder sister is purchased together as well.”

That tone meant that the Darkness Spirit had replaced Estia.

“Thanks for the help. I will buy both of them so please help me convey to them to not die by all means before I purchase them at the auction. Lionel, let’s go ahead.”

” ... Yes.”

Lionel most likely noticed that Estia was acting strangely.

Even so, he did not request for an explanation from me.

I’ll properly tell him after this.

Since he probably won’t imagine a Darkness Spirit living inside a Spirit Magic Swordsman.

By the time we opened the door we came in through, the Darkness Spirit was already standing by behind me.

And she looked unwell so I asked to be safe.

“Is it mental fatigue? Or did you expend too much magical power?”

“Sorry. I ended up feeling slightly mentally fatigued.”

“Sorry for asking you to push yourself.”

“It’s all right. I’m glad to have been useful.”

“Is that so?”

By the time we reached the entrance door, the person in charge opened it for us.

“Oya customers, are you done already?”

“Yeah. I could not talk with them.”

“Then did you treat the injuries of those sisters perfectly?”

” ... That would be impossible.”

“Ha~ as expected huh? They can expect a considerable sum of gold if they heal those 2 perfectly but every Healer-sama refused.”

“Since 「High Heal」 is not capable of healing the collapsed eyes and missing body parts.”

Only if it’s normally though ... I’ve not been spending my gold unnecessarily so I decided to just buy them during the auction.

“Then, please hold onto this. Time-wise, it will start from 20 o’clock and the location will be behind the Merchant’s Guild.”

The slave merchant handed me an invitation and then took out a map of this city and politely pointed out to me the location where the auction would be held.

He would probably receive a commission for my purchases at this auction but with this much business talent, won’t he be fine just by doing business?

So I wondered.

“Okay. I’ll buy if I see something I want.”

“Thank you.”

We were sent off by the man and left the slave dealership.

After we left the shop, Shisho and the others were waiting at the immediate vicinity.

“Well, that was quick. So how was it?”

“Yes. I decided to make an appearance at the auction. We’ll leave the Labyrinth of Traps for tomorrow.”

“Is that so? If so then what do we do from now?”

“We’ll go to an inn. You all are free to move about after that. Instructor Broad, you look like you have something to do as well so it’s all right if you want to do that.”

“Okay. Then I’ll head to the Adventurer’s Guild headquarters. As expected, 3 chimeras were tough so I’ll put in a complaint and ask for indemnities.”

I could tell that Shisho was pretty angry.

The talks at times like these would be protracted so I felt that the employees at the Adventurer’s Headquarters would have a tough time too as we went to search for an inn.

“Then, let’s ask for a recommended inn in this city and stay the night there.”

“I’ve already asked about that so I’ll lead the way.”

“That helps a lot.”

Thanking Kefin who had already finished gathering information, we headed towards the inn and until the time at night when the auction would take place, I listened to Cathy and Kefin’s report on the Labyrinth of Traps and made a strategy for tomorrow.

Chapter 152: Auction

When the sun had completely set in the Adventurer city, it was as if there were dancing butterflies that flew and collided with spotlights as the city transformed into a city of shining desire.

In that City of the Night, Lionel and I were walking.

“Cathy and Kefin hesitated until the end.”

“That’s because they have seen Luciel-sama’s troubles from up close before.”

Lionel said with a laugh but my stomach was hurting slightly from how I was already recognized by them as a troublemaker.

“We have funds so apart from those sisters, if there’s even a slight need for any of the talents or items, please let me know.”

“Understood.”

Passing through the Merchant’s Guild, Lionel and I reached the venue of the auction and we were able to pass just with the invitation without going through a body check.

The rule was the same in both Ienith and in Grandol, if any problems occur, the shop that wrote the invitation would take full responsibility but in exchange, they will receive returns from the

transactions.

The security guard told me that this time, the auction will encompass a wide variety of slaves, equipment, accessories, items and entitlements.

“It might even become a battle.”

“That might happen if it is done poorly but I believe there won’t be a problem.”

It looked like Lionel was hoping for the opposite contrary to my mutterings.

Looking at his figure, I decided to purchase the desired talents and required items even if it leads to competition in the auction.

Upon sitting at our assigned seats, we checked the surroundings and confirmed the locations of the entrances and exits.

From then on, the numbers gradually increased but when a masked individual that looked like a man appeared, the entrances and exits were blockaded.

Then, the masked man glanced across the auditorium and began his speech.

“Welcome, gentlemen and ladies, young and old, thank you for

gathering and attending today's auction. As of this moment, the auction shall begin. This time, the entered commodities are 30 in total so please participate in all of them. Without further ado, entry number 1, Sword of Raging Fire. This was excavated from the labyrinth in Labyrinth Nation Grandol, when magical power is put into it, the sword tip will flare up and if it is activated well, it's an item where you can expect the effect of burning your enemies."

"We don't need that."

"Yeah. But the price would likely rise."

As estimated by Lionel, it was successfully bid for with 17 gold coins.

If an item like that cost that much, I didn't want to think how much the other items would cost.

Then, an item that I must successfully bid for no matter what came out.

"Entry number 5, Spirit Robe. An item that possesses high magic resistance and automatic repair. The item came from an adventurer.

"... There's no helping it, I guess I'll buy it."

"Are you sure? I don't believe that is fake but I don't see any value in purchasing it?"

“That’s true. But for example, what if Lionel’s favorite mantle or armor from your time with the Empire appears in the auction?”

” ... I’ll purchase it.”

“I believe that is probably the younger sister’s equipment. If it’s wrong then I’ll just have her equip it.”

“You’re really kind when it comes to saving people.”

“Please laugh at me if she still runs away after all this.”

“Understood.”

Starting from the Spirit Robe, I consecutively bidded successfully for a Spirit Necklase, Pegasus Boots, Spirit Tree Staff, Dragon Armor, Dragon Gauntlets, Dragon Boots and Dragon Robe.

“I’m getting seriously glared at.”

“Well, since your total purchases are reaching close to 10 white gold coins. Luciel-sama would appear to be trolling this auction.”

“Either way we’ll be leaving this city tomorrow.”

“Well, originally I planned to train by having mock battles with

Whirlwind anyway.”

“Yeah. Since it has reached this point, I’ll buy even if I don’t want them.”

However, since the tension was rising, the equipment auction ended and the land and building entitlement auction began.

People were wary of me but when they realized that I won’t be buying them, the amount of gold bidded rose all at once.

“I didn’t bid double the amount so I don’t think I’ve violated any rule?”

“But didn’t you raise the gold amount in no time?”

“That’s because that is psychological warfare.”

After the land entitlement that showed the most excitement ended, the slave auction finally began.

“From here on, it will be the slaves that everyone has been waiting for. Entry number 23, Dragonewt Alfred. He is a criminal slave who destroyed a building in a drunken haze and killed a guard but his strength is worth seeing.”

” ... I don’t want that.”

“I understand.”

There weren't any slaves with pitiable charges or children who should be sheltered so I did not purchase any of them.

“There isn't much.”

“Yeah. There weren't any that looked like they would be good after training them.”

“For the convenience of transporting the commodities, entry numbers 29 and 30 will come out together. Registering as an adventurer while crossed dressed as a beautiful swordsman, the genius swordswoman who became a high-ranking adventurer in the blink of an eye within a couple of years as well as her younger sister, the Spirit Magician who chased after her elder sister.”

However, they came out in the same terrible situation I saw them in during the day.

The people who were waiting in anticipation for the 2 of them were angered and in the end, there were even people who threw items onto the stage.

“Everyone, please calm your anger. These 2 were betrayed by their companions in the labyrinth and just as they were about to be raped, they activated one of the labyrinth's traps and luckily escaped that place. However, that trap moved them to a monster room and the monster that awaited them was a hydra. The men

who chased after them were eaten and the 2 of them thought that they had finally escaped after returning from the labyrinth but half of their beautiful faces were inflamed by deadly poison and their feet were undergoing necrosis while the younger sister even had her eyes burnt. However, what awaited the sisters were bandits dressed as adventurers. The arrows released during the surprise attack pierced their throats and they only somehow survived using high-class potions but they lost their voices in exchange. Furthermore, in addition to their equipment and items, the bandits would have kidnapped these 2 if they had their original looks but looking at their ugly looks, they destroyed both their eyes and ears and robbed their high-class equipment and items. Even so, the sisters fought without giving up and ended up accidentally killing the newbie adventurers who came to help. For these 2 people who have become criminal slaves, if any of you have the money to treat them, you would have your hands on 2 pretty sisters. Now then, please start the auction.”

The moderator said it that way but a sigh flowed across the venue.

Everyone understood.

They would not be able to regain their crushed eyes and neither will they be able to regain their voice due to their crushed throats. They would not be able to regain control over the 4 limbs they have lost either.

Even so, that masked man started the auction.

“It will start with 10 gold coins for the 2 of them together.”

It proceeded to 20 pieces and 30 pieces but there was totally no momentum like before.

“One white gold coin.”

Everyone fell completely silent when I called that.

The masked man made a polite bow in my direction and I realized that the masked man was the slave merchant.

“Lionel, did you recognize the masked man?”

“Yes. But it was just a while ago. For him to be that slave merchant ... that man is a considerably sharp and able person.”

“I’d like a person about as sharp and able as that man as my companion the next time I manage a country. Well, one that doesn’t betray me takes precedence though.”

If it’s a sharp and able individual like him, he must have aimed for opportunities he made using his own strength.

His goal for being a slave merchant is probably to raise funds and gather talents.

That’s how it felt to me.

“Businessmen flow to where profits can be made, it might be possible if you can utilize their morality to hold them in one location while still continuing their profits but ...”

“Ha~. If I could do that then I won’t have to struggle so much ...”

“That’s true.”

While we changed words with smiles, the masked moderator gave the call to end the auction.

“That will be all for the auction today so please disperse. Please join us next time if you have the chance.”

The stage curtain lowered as the masked man bowed.

With the final purchase of those sisters, the gazes from the surroundings changed to one where they considered me to be a person who doesn’t know how to use money so the only saving grace was that it didn’t look like it a fight would break out huh?

While having that thought, I headed over to collect the equipment I purchased as well as the sisters.

I was guided by an attendant and would have to exchange the items by paying the successful bids I called during the auction.

“Healer-dono, because you have a large number of items, this way please.”

I didn't know for what reason but I was brought to a private room.

And the person attending to us was the masked man who returned to be a slave merchant.

“It's because we can safely deliver the items here. Firstly, please take out the total amount for these 8 bids.”

I placed 11 white gold coins down.

“This is the payment for the 10 items including the slave sisters. I don't need the change.”

” ... Indeed. Well then, I will bring them here so please wait a moment.”

“No, I will go there.”

I touched the equipment to collect them and chose to follow the man.

” ... I see. This way please then.”

I noticed the man's face twitch for an instant.

When I arrived, the girls were placed in a prison but the other slaves were also housed within so it was a very bad environment.

It's not like their bodies were touched or kicked or were they subjected to verbal abuse but it was a mentally stressful environment.

"... That's terrible."

"It's because we have various circumstances as well."

"It's fine. Then could you bring those 2 here?"

"Please wait a moment."

The male slave merchant called out to the men watching him and they entered inside and violently dragged the sisters until before our eyes.

"Even if they are slaves, what is the meaning of treating my possession like this!!"

At that point in time, Lionel grabbed my shoulder and I was in a state where I could not take action.

“Oya, so you are one of those who are kind to slaves huh?”

The man was provoking me.

It was shown in that man’s eyes.

” ... Hurry up and get it done with.”

” ... Well then, I will hand over the slave crest. May I have your blood?”

With an expression saying it was not fun how I endured the provocation, he started his work with indifference.

I was gripping my fist tightly so even without using a knife, my blood immediately spilled when I faced my palm down.

“With this, you have ownership of these slaves.”

The same time I heard those words, I took out robes from my item bag and placed them onto the 2 sisters, crossed their arms over my neck and raised them while hugging their waists.

“We’re returning Lionel.”

“Yes!”

Even if there was an attack, Lionel's both hands were empty so we would probably be able to shake it off.

While having that thought, we exited the building where the auction was held and everyone came to welcome us.

“What happened?”

“I came to pick you guys up since it was likely to be attacked after an auction. When I said that I would come myself, they all insisted on coming to pick you up too. And so, those 2 are?”

It seems like Instructor Broad was worried that we would be attacked.

If there were specialized squads aiming for that, I felt like there wouldn't be many who will gather for an auction but that might not have been true.

“Yes. I intended to continue like this to the inn as I am continuously applying 「Heal」 but now with you all here, it doesn't look like there would be a problem even if we're attacked.”

I instantly activated 「Recover」, 「Dispel」, and 「Purification」.

“Luciel-sama, did you immediately release these 2 from slavery?”

Kefin asked in shock but Lionel smiled while standing next to me.

“Yeah. But, I released them from slavery not because I trust the 2 of them or because I was swayed by my emotions towards their pitiable treatment. Lionel also intended for me to proceed this way right?”

“Yes. It felt like that man was hiding something and I had a disturbing feeling when you 2 did the slave contract. I believe this judgment is correct. Since it looked like he was looking at us with eyes that were investigating us.”

I felt that too when we visited the slave dealership.

It left an impression as though I was being appraised.

I won't be troubled even if he appraised me but it's also true that I was also slightly concerned about what that sharp and able man was thinking.

“Well, that's what happened so let's first return to the inn and completely treat these 2 people in one go.”

I announced that so Cathy and Estia were about to carry the sisters but they grabbed onto me firmly.

“It would be impossible to unravel if it's like this nya.”

“Luciel-sama, please work hard.”

After those 2 said that, I ended up carrying the 2 sisters all the way while receiving warm gazes from my surroundings.

Chapter 153: Something More Important Than The Sense Of Duty

I felt jumpy several times on the way back but we didn't get attacked in the end.

“So they didn't attack in the end huh?”

“Our opponent's ability was probably fairly high too.”

“Well, their tailing was amateurish and they didn't have any assassination-type members so even if they did attack, we probably wouldn't have any problems.”

Certainly, with Instructor Broad and Lionel here, it's unlikely for us to be defeated.

Thinking about it that way, it showed that the ones who were intending to attack us were at least able to gauge their opponent's ability.

“Well, we'll be departing tomorrow so it shouldn't be a problem.”

While feeling the weight of the 2 people I was carrying on my left and right, we somehow returned to the inn safely.

We directly proceeded to Estia and Cathy's room and upon sitting

them down on the bed, they relaxed for a split second so I immediately escaped.

“Well then, I’ll apply healing magic on the 2 of them now so please subdue them if they act violently.”

After confirming that everyone nodded, I activated 「Extra Heal」 on the 2 of them at the same time.

I considered asking Estia to use the power of the Darkness Spirit but thinking that the spirit and the host herself would be exhausted if they push themselves too much, I chose this method instead.

Wrapped in light, their lost ears and necrotising legs returned to normal and Instructor Broad who actually saw it for the first time begin to become weirdly excited.

“Won’t we be able to fight at full strength every day if this is possible? Luciel too, if we train Luciel to the extent of not killing him, he should be able to rise to a skill level close to ours within 5 years right, Lionel.”

“If he levels up in a labyrinth while training, even if he doesn’t have natural talent, Luciel-sama still has room for growth.”

“As expected, you think so too?”

“Yeah.”

That's not a conversation you have while I'm just beside you! While tsukkomi-ing them in my heart, I finished treating the 2 people.

“My name is Luciel, I'm a Healer. I believe you 2 understand just by hearing my voice but I have completely healed your injuries and abnormal conditions. You can try to confirm it.”

Upon speaking to the sisters, they gradually opened their eyes and they begin to show joy and confusion at being able to see and hear.

Then, after the sisters confirmed that they were next to each other, they hugged each other.

However, no matter how much I want to continue watching over this touching reunion, we're not exactly free either so I entered the main topic.

“You 2 can remain as you are there but please listen. Do you 2 possess blessings? I have acquired multiple blessings from dragons and spirits and they have asked me to search for individuals with blessings.”

The 2 of them heard me and stopped hugging, they looked at each other before looking at me.

“I am Nadia, the Swordswoman with the title of the Dragon

God's Priestess/Shrine Maiden(Miko). Thank you for helping us."

"I am Lydia, the Spirit-user holding the title of Blessing of the Spirit King. I truly thank you for healing our injuries."

The 2 of them introduced themselves like that and extended their gratitude.

However, I noticed something ... remembered something when I saw the 2 of them perform that self-introduction.

I understand that they are the Dragon God Priestess and a holder of the Blessing from the Spirit King but at the same time, aren't they reincarnated individuals too?

I ended up having such suspicions.

There was a reason why I felt a sense of nostalgia when I saw the 2 of them at the slave dealership even though they had unrecognizable features.

I now know the reason why I was more irritated than expected when they were treated sloppily after I purchased them.

The 2 of them are somewhat similar to 2 people who still remain in my memories, my senpai who taught me a lot in my previous life and my always cheerful and energetic kouhai.

” ... Are the 2 of you aware of circumstances that lead to the situation you 2 were in?”

I guised myself in calmness as I hit them with a question.

“I formed a 2 person adventurer party with Lydia. However, to clear the Labyrinth of Traps, skills to disarm traps and decent combat power is required. Hence, we formed a joint party with another group but various things happened and there was a Hydra where we escaped to and even though we somehow escaped, we were attacked by either adventurers or bandits after we exit the labyrinth and could not use our eyes and ears before we realized it.”

“Then, I will tell you the truth I know. The people you were resisting sealed your eyes and ears and then guided you to kill totally unrelated new adventurers. You sisters were then brought to the slave merchant, I purchased you at the auction just now and completely healed you 2 with magic.”

I was debating whether to tell them the circumstances regarding the murders they committed but I decided to not lie to them, including the fact that they have become slaves.

While I was treating their injuries, they behaved as if they recognized who I am but because they lowered their heads to thank me, I could not continue to read their expressions.

They continued to convey words of gratitude for a while after that.

Then, when they reached a pause in saying their thanks, I asked Nadia about what they intend to do for the future.

” ... What we plan to do from now on? We’ve become slaves so naturally, we will follow our owner Luciel-sama?”

“Well, normally that would be the case but currently, your slave contracts have been dispelled. Since there was a need to erase curse-type conditions as well to completely treat you 2 but ... what do the 2 of you want to do from now on?”

The Dragons and Spirits hoped that I would take the 2 of them as my partners.

However, it’s unlikely that I would be able to immediately make a decision as to take the 2 of them as my partners.

” ... Are you letting us decide?”

“Yeah. To become slaves, become my followers or return to being adventurers, I don’t mind if you make the decision yourselves. I want you 2 as my followers if possible but I will not force you to make that decision.”

After I told them that, Nadia glanced at her younger sister Lydia and Lydia nodded.

Maybe she was asking the Spirits about the situation as if employing them like a lie detector? Then, Nadia once again turned back towards me and gave her reply.

“Luciel-sama right? Please lend us your strength.”

She lowered her head along with her younger sister.

It probably only meant 1 thing.

” ... You wish to release all the Reincarnation Dragons and acquire blessings from all the Spirits? I’ll answer you honestly then. In the past, currently and in the future, I will actively not involve myself with them. I will merely take action if I am dragged into the situation and have no other choice. That is my answer.”

Even I find that answer to be useless but compared to the 2 people in front of me, I place more importance in Lionel and the others who have become my trusted followers.

That’s why I don’t intend to say things like ‘I will act for the sake of these 2 people’.

Within that atmosphere, I could see that Shisho was desperately restraining himself from laughing and I was also reflexively about to laugh but I somehow endured.

Then, after some time, Nadia spoke.

” ... Luciel-sama, just for a short time, is it possible for us to decide after we experience journeying along with you?”

Well, that might be the normal reaction to a situation like this.

Usually, Cathy and Kefin would complain about it but this time, they refrained from doing so.

” ... Yeah. All right.”

I moved to the table and prepared the food.

“You 2 can use this room. I’ll also put the food here. I’ll see you 2 tomorrow.”

“”Thank you.””

Seeing the 2 of them bow down at the same time, we left the room.

“Cathy, Estia, I’m sorry for giving them your room.”

“It’s all right nya. Leaving that aside, does Luciel-sama know those 2 people nya?”

“No ... it’s just that they resemble the atmosphere of people who

had taken care of me and given me energy in the past so I was just surprised.”

“Luciel-sama, your complexion was pale so please don’t overdo it.”

While thanking Cathy and Estia who were worried about me, I had a strategy meeting with the grinning Shisho and Lionel for tomorrow.

“We initially planned to save the Dragon God Priestess from the Labyrinth of Traps. But, now that we’ve already achieved that, we’ve lost our reason to go to the Labyrinth of Traps. Instructor Broad, if it’s like this, shall we return to Meratoni tomorrow?”

The others are my followers but Instructor Broad is different. Furthermore, he’s a guildmaster so he probably can’t take much free time on his own.

That’s why, this time, I decided to act after consulting Shisho.

” ... There would be paperwork for the incident this time for a very long time so I want to let off some steam but the headquarters would pester me if I use the underground training ground at the Adventurer’s Guild so I can’t use it. That’s why there’s a need for another location right?”

I could immediately tell that Shisho was not tied down by the Adventurer’s Guild in Meratoni.

” ... How many days do you plan to stay here?”

“Let’s see ... is it all right until this incident dies down?”

“Maybe about a month at the longest?”

“Yeah. With that duration, we’re likely able to conquer all the labyrinths in Grandol including the Labyrinth of Traps with the members here right?”

“I see. That might be interesting.”

... Lionel, why are you the one answering?

But, it didn’t seem like it was possible to stop the 2 of them.

Well, it’s not like there would be dragons sleeping in all of the labyrinths that exist so I’ll just let the matter take its own course.

” ... I’ll purchase food supplies tomorrow so please confirm the locations of the labyrinths during that time.”

“Okay. Well, with this, we’ll be able to have mock battles once a day so I’ll be able to ascertain your growth.”

I was powerless to stop Shisho who said that and smiled.

” ... Would it be wise to bring Nadia and Lydia along?”

“You can bring them along if you want to. But Luciel, you must also make sure and see for yourself. I understand the words by the Reincarnation Dragons and Spirits but if you get too caught up in that sense of duty, you would definitely lose something important to you.”

” ... I know. I’d like to think about it for a bit.”

“That’s fine. Well, if you get too caught up in your sense of duty for the 2 of them, I’ll come save you ... what are you looking and laughing at Sen’oni?”

“No, the fact that Luciel-sama and Whirlwind have a master-pupil relationship is just interesting.”

“Shut up. Tomorrow we’ll be starting early too so let’s quickly go rest.”

“Well then, Luciel-sama, see you tomorrow.”

“Yeah. Shisho, Lionel, good night.”

The 2 of them smiled while leaving the room.

“I wonder where do the 2 of them want me to aim towards?”

Nevertheless, to be caught up in my sense of duty ... Shisho really sees through me.”

I went to sleep while reflecting on how I intended to achieve what was beyond my own ability after getting caught up in the moment.

If those sisters will be coming to the labyrinth too, would it be better if I pass them the equipment I bided on successfully?

While having such thoughts, Angel’s Pillow invited me to the land of dreams.

Chapter 154: Entrusted Item

Waking up before sunrise, I headed to the room the sisters slept in.

“Good morning. Why are you guys here?”

I probed Cathy and Kefin who were trying to hide in the hallway.

“Good morning nya. Luciel-sama wakes up early as usual nya.”

“Luciel-sama, good morning. The thieves from yesterday were hanging around near the inn so we were keeping a lookout.”

I intended to let it go if the sisters ran away but I forgot about the assailants.

I felt that Kefin has really grown.

“I see. You guys followed up after me because I had insufficient forethought. Thank you. Tentatively, I came to pass the sisters their equipment apart from the robe I passed them yesterday.”

“Luciel-sama ... to be honest, I do not understand why you would go to such lengths for the 2 of them. Certainly, I understand that they are special because they possess the blessings from Dragons and Spirits. But ...”

Kefin said to me even though it looked like it was extremely hard for him to say it.

I was happy because I could tell that he was really concerned for me from his remark that properly considers how this appears to others.

While feeling grateful for attaining a loyal retainer like Kefin, I precisely explained to him.

“I guess not just Kefin but everyone is thinking about it as well? Why do I help them to this extent? It’s something like a justification for the blessings that I have received.”

“Justification?”

“Yeah. I am just an ordinary person who is able to use Healing Magic. I’m not a special existence. Even so, with the blessings given to me by the Dragons and Spirits, I’ve been able to overcome the difficulties I’ve faced until now ... that’s how I feel. That’s why, by helping the 2 of them this time, by saving the Dragon God’s Priestess and the person who holds the blessing from the Spirit King, I show proof and sincerity for the Dragon and Spirit Blessings that I have received.”

That’s my true feelings.

Certainly, I was feeling elated from being told that she was my partner and I was having slight delusions knowing that she is my

fated other but thinking about it calmly, I just an ordinary person.

It all stemmed from nothing more than releasing the Holy Dragon as I was desperately trying to survive.

That's why, as proof of my efforts, I want to leave behind traces of my compensation.

“Nyahahah. Luciel-sama is seriously funny nya.”

“Pu pu~. Luciel-sama really frets the fine details. Even so, that is a wrong way of recognizing blessings.”

But the 2 of them laughed at my feelings.

I was shocked that my slightly serious talk was replied with laughter.

I didn't expect the topic to normally be laughed at.

Not expecting to be made a fool of, even though they have pledged loyalty to me, I was, as might be expected, agitated and asked them with a strong tone.

“What do you mean by that?”

Perhaps the 2 of them could sense it, they erased their smiles and

answered.

“There certainly are those who are born with blessings. However, the people who have been bestowed blessings after birth are only those who have been acknowledged by the existences who bestow the blessings to have accumulated virtue towards them or have helped them. Therefore, blessings are statuses given as repayment for the favor.”

“Eh?”

I didn't know about that fact at all.

“You didn't know nya?”

Judging from Cathy's attitude, Kefin's information should be true.

I could infer that this fact should be quite widely known.

In retrospect, I received the blessings of the Reincarnation Dragons after I released them from their seals.

The Water Spirit's blessing was after I saved the Hacchi tribe.

But what about the Earth Spirits? Now that I think about it, it's about when I gave them high-grade honey as well as magical power.

Thinking about it that way, it seems like I have completely misunderstood about having been entrusted with the fate of the world.

(TL: In essence, Luciel thought that he was given blessings by the dragons and spirits so that he could aid/save the world but in fact, he was just given the blessings to thank him for saving/helping them without any strings attached.)

“You had a fresh morning expression just now but now it’s all cloudy nya. Luciel-sama, sorry for laughing at you just now nya.”

” ... I sincerely apologize for laughing and for my impertinent remarks.”

The 2 of them were probably apologizing for getting carried away.

If blessings are proofs of having given aid, I tried to recall once again if I acquired anything other than the blessings.

Doing so, I honestly don’t understand the favor bestowed by the Spirits but apart from the blessings from the Dragons, I recall acquiring a lot other items.

Leaving aside the items left in the labyrinth, they occasionally hand out their own scales and they have also entrusted their power into my Illusionary Sword to aid me.

Thinking about it like that, it wasn't a bad feeling to feel that they might be pleased by how I helped them this time.

Since I was silent the whole time, the 2 of them did not raise their heads at all.

It would be tiring to be angry indefinitely and they have apologized too so I accepted their apology.

Even though I don't talk to them about everything, to feel offended just by that one part would be too narrow-minded.

"I was hurt by being laughed at but I was made aware of my own ignorance. I accept your apologies. Thank you for voicing out words that were hard to say."

The 2 of them raised their heads after I said that.

"Also, regarding this matter, I don't regret helping the sisters and just like how it has been until today, I will help with the bare minimum. What comes after will depend on the people themselves."

"As expected of Luciel-sama nya. Even though you're naive, you're still the same as ever towards others nya."

"I was rude even though I'm also one of the people who has been

saved by that kindness. I will devote my full loyalty in the future.”

“You don’t need to think about it so rigidly. I think of my followers more of like family and I am also human so I will also make many mistakes. It will help me if you all give your advice and counsel during those times.”

“Understood.”

I said it all high and mighty but if I did not recall the 2 of them helping me in my previous life ... I might have just ignored them.

If I encountered the 2 of them because we possess blessings, instead of being attracted to each other, it might actually be more of being drawn to each other.

It would be weird to continue talking in the corridor forever so I knocked on the door leading to the room the 2 of them slept in.

『Kon Kon Kon』 The knocking sounds rang out but there were no replies from within.

“As expected, they might still be sleeping?”

“Well, since it is still early.”

“Once the 2 of them wake up, we’ll go to Luciel-sama’s room together.”

“Really? Then, I’ll leave it to ..” 『Gacha』

The door opened before I assigned the task to them.

Then, just as I saw them, the 2 of them vigorously bowed down.

“”Sorry!””

The 3 of us were dumbfounded for being bowed at all of the sudden.

“I was told about your conversations by Spirit-san.”

“I had her convey it to me.”

Is she capable of listening to various types of Spirits by possessing the Spirit King’s Blessing?

I thought that it would be convenient if that’s the case but I could not really understand their reason for apologizing.

“I think you already know if you were told but you guys will be traveling with us for a while right? So, I thought of passing you 2 some equipment. May I come in?”

They were momentarily shocked about receiving equipment but I

obtained permission to enter.

“Please enter.”

Cathy and I entered the room while Kefin remained behind outside.

“These are items I won at the same auction as you guys.”

The 2 of them were very surprised when I lined the items side-by-side on the bed.

” ... Erm, weren’t these expensive?”

Nadia asked but I decided to not tell them the price.

It would also serve to remonstrate myself for my actions.

“Since I heard from the slave dealer yesterday that you were a Swordswoman and a Spirit-user, I thought that you might have rare equipment so I bided for them.”

“This is mine. I never expected to get it back.”

The younger sister Lydia is slightly more childish and perhaps more honest as she hugged the staff/cane/wand.

” ... Er, was there a slightly warped sword?”

Like a Japanese sword? Or more of a curved sword type?

“There wasn’t one. I thought they sold the whole set of equipment but it wasn’t exhibited.”

” ... I see.”

I passed the depressed Nadia a fairly decent sword I obtained when I was releasing the Thunder Dragon.

“You can use this for the time being.”

“Thank you.”

“There’s something I need to tell you two. Because you 2 possess blessings and I have been entrusted to do so by the Dragons, I freely used my power to treat your injuries. However, this is not something ordinary. Typically, missing body parts cannot be regenerated and crushed eyes cannot be reformed. That’s why I would like you 2 to live while covering your eyes with the hood on the robe you 2 are wearing currently whenever you are in Grandol.”

That’s quite a serious request but either way, for the time being, I don’t intend to return to Grandol so it won’t be a problem even if it is discovered.

The 2 of them immediately agreed to it but we should move on the assumption that there would be people from the outside who will be investigating, including me, the 3 of us.

We lightly had our meal in the room the 2 of them were staying in and Kefin and Cathy tagged along with me to head out for shopping.

Citing it as the work of a guildmaster, Instructor Broad will be asking Nadia and Lydia about the events that happened in the Labyrinth of Traps, as well as what happened after they escaped in detail, including all the requests the 2 of them have accepted until now so that he can begin his research on the perpetrator and the mastermind. I decided to leave Lionel and Estia behind for their security.

I had Estia remain there so that the Spirits would not perform mischief on Shisho and Lionel.

Nobody raised objections so Cathy, Kefin and I came to do shopping together but as if it was natural for the 2 of them, they already had knowledge of information such as recommended shops.

Thanks to them, while securing sufficient amounts of various kinds of fresh food, we negotiated with shops that have a reputation for tasty food and we were able to purchase a large amount of their cooking along with their pots to keep them in.

“I didn’t expect to finish shopping so quickly. When did you 2 do your research?”

“Yesterday, when Luciel-sama entered the slave dealership, Whirlwind-sama gave an adventurer a silver coin and asked him to gather information. And he had us accompany him.”

“I didn’t expect the guildmaster to know of that method to gather information nya. I felt that he definitely did so to show us the method nya.”

Shisho might have been testing the 2 of them.

He’s surely been planning how to dive into the labyrinth since that time.

While thinking about Shisho, I recalled about how I had completely forgotten to pass them gold for times like that.

“I see. Ah, I’ve completely forgotten to pay your wages. I’ll pass it to you all later.”

“Luciel-sama, you know what slaves don’t get wages right?”

“It’s fine to leave that unchanged nya.”

“Rather than slaves, I plan to at least pass you all, as my retinue, a minimum amount of funds. Lionel should know about it too so

I'm curious why he didn't say anything."

Well, whether Lionel approves of it or not is a different matter.

We returned to the inn while having that conversation and this time, we left the inn with all the members.

"So, shall we stop by the Adventurer's Guild?"

I asked Instructor Broad as I ushered the horses out from the Hermit's Stable.

"No, I've scattered the seeds (TL: Perhaps meaning he has sent out orders to his subordinates) so let's go to the labyrinth directly."

"Understood."

Maybe because she has recovered her physical condition, Fornoir came out and glanced at the whole group before play-biting my head so I applied purification magic and she once again returned to the stable.

"... Oh well. Well then, let's set off?"

Shisho and Lionel rode on horses, Cathy and Kefin took the carriage driver seats while Estia, Nadia, Lydia and I entered the carriage and we departed from Grandol.

However, we were stopped right before we exited Grandol.

Chapter 155: Raid

I didn't ask which labyrinth we would be heading to after we left the city of Grandol so I tried asking the 2 people sitting in the driver seat.

"I've heard that we would be going through multiple labyrinths but what kind of labyrinth would we be going to first?"

"Apparently, a labyrinth where only ant monsters appear and have only 10 floors. I also didn't know that there was such a shallow labyrinth."

"We've just fought ants so I wanted to refrain from going there but Lionel-sama was somewhat motivated so I couldn't stop him nya."

Unlike the slightly excited Kefin, maybe because she was imagining the ant monsters, Cathy looked like she didn't want to go to a labyrinth filled with ants like that.

I would obviously go with them if those 2 are going but just by imagining it slightly, I couldn't help but visualize the image of being thrown into a hole.

"... I see. Even though I have a very bad feeling about it ... I am also incapable of stopping those 2 so we can only quietly follow them."

I looked at the 2 riding ahead and spat out a sigh.

It's encouraging to have 2 rivals cooperating with each other in my party but I wonder if I can reach the level the 2 of them wish of me.

It's extremely unsettling but I told myself to just do what I can and I decided to first begin with calming matters in the carriage.

"We've just come to Grandol yesterday but have you 2 been in this country for a long time?"

"It's been about 3 years for me. Slightly more than a year for Lydia."

"Is that so? Nevertheless, did you 2 form a party with just the 2 of you? You guys didn't form parties with other people? During my time as a Healer in Meratoni, there were rarely any people who acted solo or in parties of 2?"

"Well, a lot of things happened and I acted solo for a long time. There were many troublesome matters but with ample preparation time and since my physical ability dramatically rose because I acquired the Dragon God's Priestess title during my coming-of-age ceremony ..."

I didn't really understand her reason for acting solo for 3 years as an adventurer just because her physical ability drastically improved but I wonder if she has some kind of circumstance?

For the time being, I talked to the reticent Lydia.

“I see. Lydia is a Spirit-user and possesses the Blessing of the Spirit King right? Does the Blessing of the Spirit King allow you to borrow power from all Spirits?”

“Yes. Because I have not contracted with the Greater Spirits, I can only borrow power from young Spirits but I can borrow power without minding the attribute. Do you know about Rainstar-dono?”

” ... Yeah. He is the founder of the church so naturally I’ve heard of him.”

I wonder what kind of reaction would she give me if I told her that I’ve also seen the actual him?

I was slightly tempted but I refrained from doing such thoughtless behavior.

“Rainstar-dono contracted with all the Greater Spirits and apparently met the Spirit King. I also aim to meet the Spirit King so I am working hard with elder sister.”

I could tell that she found that person amazing.

In contrast to the delighted younger sister, the elder sister was

looking depressed.

I was curious as to why she was making a face as if she didn't really want to become an adventurer but it happened just as I was about to ask.

I heard Shisho and Lionel's voices from outside.

"It's an enemy attack!! Some people dressed bandits."

"Luciel-sama, please prepare for combat."

What idiotic bandits to come even with those 2 around.

I begin preparing for battle while having that thought.

"Understood. Estia, please protect these 2. You 2 can remain in this carriage."

I activated 「Area Barrier」 and moved to the driver seat and applied 「Area Barrier」 on Cathy and Kefin too.

"Anti-personnel combat ... it's my first time fighting with bandits but is there anything I need to prepare myself for?"

"Fight with the thought that you will die if you hesitate nya."

“If you’re reluctant to kill them, please cut off their 4 limbs such that they can’t move.”

“Okay.”

Just as I activated 「Area Barrier」 with 「Magic Circle Chant」 on Shisho and Lionel in front of me, the enemies released their arrows.

The number looked like there were dozens of them falling like rain but Shisho and Lionel were laughing on the horses and seemed to be having some conversation.

“Those 2 look like they have so much leeway. Cathy and Kefin, please be wary of the left and right and behind.”

“”Yes!””

Cathy and Kefin also had smiles on their faces for some reason and begin to watch the left and right but I could tell that the number of arrows was gradually decreasing.

“Since they’ve released so many arrows, ran out of arrows and not a single person or even the horses were injured, they have no choice but to approach huh?”

“Then, I’ll temporarily entrust this location to you nyan.”

“We’ll go defeat the enemies to the left and right.”

The next instant, the 2 of them scattered to the left and right as if they had disappeared.

Looking at where the 2 of them were headed to, I could see the figures of a small squad of about 5 people peeking at our condition.

“These might be the adventurers disguised as bandits and bandits and some other people mixed in that attacked the sisters. Even so, aren’t they too shabby?”

Just as I muttered that, the squad in front rushed at Shisho and Lionel.

” ... No need to guess, they are trying to break through at one point and aim for this location!?”

At the driver seat, I drew my Holy Silver bow after such a long time.

If there’s anything we need to be even slightly cautious about, I would probably be able to help Shisho and Lionel.

I thought.

However, I could say that the combat would end shortly after.

Looking at the bandits charging over, Shisho disappeared from atop his horse and I could hear the stopping screams of the bandit advance troops.

Lionel saw that, got off his horse and caused walls of flames to appear to the left and right with a swing of his Flame Greatsword which killed the momentum of the charging horses.

“As expected of Lionel-sama. Nevertheless, Whirlwind is also a monster nya.”

“Indeed. I’ll be next after Luciel-sama but it looks like they would be able to train me. I’m extremely looking forward to it.”

The 2 who went towards the left and right squads returned at the same timing.

But Kefin. That is equal to a death flag you know.

I could not believe Kefin would say such a remark.

“Thank you for your hard work. Was there anything that could tell what bandits they were?”

“There wasn’t anything in particular nya. Rather than that, they were new adventurers who were hired with money nya.”

“It was the same at my side too. They talked before I threatened

them. They were told that a single carriage would be attacked so they were requested to give their aid.”

I intuitively thought that the person who came up with that strategy was the same person who framed Nadia and Lydia.

“So what happened to those adventurers?”

“It seems like they decided to run away when the arrows rained down nya. I made all of them unconscious and took their adventurer cards nya.”

“I did the same at my side too.”

Garba-san was charged with the training for the 2 of them but I could tell that he had given them guidance from how they hide their dark side with their refreshing expressions.

“I see. Shall we return to Grandol for now after Shisho and Lionel come back? Please remain vigilant until the fighting ends.”

“”Yes!””

I left the driver seat to the 2 of them and peeked into the carriage to ask Nadia and Lydia.

“Do you 2 have any idea as to why you are being targeted?”

The 2 of them held each other hands and nodded.

“As I suspected. If that’s the case, then the question would be why didn’t they purchase you 2 during the auction. Then, it would mean that they were waiting for me to treat you 2. There shouldn’t be many people who know about me but if they possess appraisal skills then ...”

I was caught in a whirlpool of thoughts but I tried asking if they know of anyone who would bring them back if they knew that the 2 of them have been healed.

“Do you have anybody in mind who would bring you 2 sisters back as slaves given that you are treated?”

“Father and brother, as well as the head of the current Earl family in Principality of Blange who are descendants of the summoned hero, Blade von Kamiya.”

Summoned ... I don’t know where was he summoned from but Kamiya ... if I think of it as Kamiya(神谷) then he was probably summoned from Japan?

And then, if it even involves their immediate family, it means that these 2 are nobles.

However, I’ve never heard of Kamiya-dono.

” ... That summoned person was a hero right? But I’ve never

heard of him?”

“I heard from father in the past that the achievements of the hero were treated as that of the Principality.”

Nadia answered indifferently but why did they run away in the first place?

It's common among stories, but even if one of them had a guy they liked, it doesn't seem like they hate guys?

” ... Why did you run away? Though it seems plausible that nobles would have political marriages?”

” ... Yes. I also resolved myself for it. However, about 3 months before my coming-of-age ceremony, I received a revelation from Dragon God-sama and I only prepared in case that revelation was true. Then, during my coming-of-age ceremony, when I acquired the title, I saw the world get engulfed by darkness. I decided to live my life to change that future.”

... Isn't my act of releasing the Holy Dragon the cause of that?

Taking that into consideration, did I wind up changing fate?

Despite my confusion, this time, Lydia spoke.

“I also heard the voice of the Spirits before my coming-of-age

ceremony and once my coming-of-age ceremony ended, I thought that I was to be married at that point but everyone fell asleep all at once, I followed the voice of the Spirits to run away using a horse and I easily escaped. I reached where Nadia Ane-sama was and have been together with her from then on.”

I acquired the Blessing of the Water Spirit slightly more than a year ago but ... there should be other people who have acquired blessings too right?

Even if I think so, looking at the 2 of them, I end up feeling like our fates are intertwined so it felt mysterious.

However, imagining the situation, I felt sympathetic.

If it was me, I would not have been able to recover quickly.

” ... In short, the Earl who was supposed to marry the 2 of you had his brides who are from the same family run away twice.”

Maybe they guessed my feelings as the 2 of them begin giving excuses.

“Kamiya-dono has a wife and 3 concubines so our role was to prevent father and brother from starting a rebellion ... we’re essentially hostages. If it was to be like that, I wanted to live my life saving the world instead.”

So he already had a harem huh.

Well, it's a system where a husband can have many wives but my feelings of sympathy had disappeared.

“Furthermore, a descendant of a hero is not a hero. In spite of them knowing that, father and brother ... to mother who protected us ...”

Lydia cried as she said that.

It's unfair to use women's weapon ... If Shisho didn't tell me to not drink Object X, my love-struck brain would probably have activated and caused me to be moved. Instead, feeling thankful that I have a Healer job where I can calmly think matters through, I combined the information from their stories and the uncomfortable feeling I felt in Grandol.

What if there was a person with Appraisal skill among our opponents and they set a trap to separate the 2 stronger individuals and seal them to lower our combat potential?

I considered up to that point and quickly gave instructions to Cathy and Kefin.

“As expected, there's a possibility that guy is around, Cathy, Kefin, break through the center.”

The 2 of them urged the carriage forward without arguing against my instructions.

As we gradually closed the distance, I could still hear sounds of battle.

On the other side of the flame wall was Shisho who was struggling against a dozen or so adventurers, Lionel who had suffered from small scratches as well as the figure of the slave merchant man who had a smile on his face.

Chapter 156: True Nature Of The Slave Merchant

When we entered the front line of the battle, even though I was surprised that the 2 of them were struggling in battle, I applied 「High Heal」 from a distance and the smile pasted on the slave merchant's face since before changed to an expressionless face.

“You’ve noticed it already? Even though it looked like you would easily fall into traps, it seems that you’re slightly capable of thinking.”

“You, the slave merchant, was the person who set up this strategy huh?”

The slave merchant once again returned to his smiling face and begin talking.

“Quite astute. I’d like to ask just for reference but why did you think that this was just a diversion and why were you not surprised to see me here?”

The slaves who were fighting until a while ago stopped their movements as if to listen to me.

“That’s because you were drunk on yourself and bragged about the method you used to commit your crime that went well once.”

“Hou. Did I say something that tipped you off?”

“Yeah. The point where they were betrayed by companions when they were challenging the Labyrinth of Traps, about the hydra that attacked them, about the people who caught the sisters outside, about the new adventurers who were murdered, you talked too much in detail. As if you were a concerned party or the one who made the strategy. Furthermore, at that time, you were smiling.”

They were truly small discomforts but they were there.

” ... I see. I didn’t notice. However, what if the people who sold the sisters boasted about it?”

His tone was calm but his smile disappeared and he was trying to provoke me.

“If that happened, I would think of you who is using the same method now to be considerably stupid. Since it would mean that you are unable to come up with your own strategy.”

I’m rehashing but if the ones who were in front weren’t Shisho and Lionel and they came charging here together, the carriage might have been attacked and I don’t know how the adventurers laying in ambush would be implicated ...

“If you live to say it. Hurry up and get rid of them.”

The angered slave merchant announced as he pounced at Shisho

and Lionel but Kefin and Cathy jumped in to assist them.

While I applied 「High Heal」 on Shisho and Lionel, I continued to provoke the slave merchant by talking about his mistakes.

“Moreover, you committed a failure as a slave merchant. How did you intend to analyze 2 people who were in such severe conditions? If you could analyze them, it can only mean that you possess an Appraisal skill. Once I thought of that, the contradicting points connected.”

There shouldn't be any skill other than Appraisal that can analyze those 2 who were in such severe conditions.

If there are other skills, it should be a skill that I don't know even though I had glanced through the list of skills multiple times (when I was reincarnated).

Then, by knowing if the slave merchant has an Appraisal skill or not, I would be able to get him to show his true colors.

” ”

“If I assume that you possess the Appraisal skill, I would be able to be convinced by 2 actions that you took. Firstly, after confirming my Holy attribute magic skill level when I visited the slave trading post, you asked if I could heal them. Secondly, you did not say anything regarding why I purchased the 2 of them in the auction.”

” ... And what does that prove?”

While the fighting continued, the man glared at me as if he was irritated.

“You were unsure if I could heal the sisters and was frustrated that I outwitted you so you asked your subordinate to mistreat the sisters when I came to receive them to anger me and perform some trick during the slave contract binding right? Although you wouldn’t have guessed that I would dispel it immediately.”

” ... It just means that not everything will go as plan.”

“Plan?”

“Since you hold so many skills and you are of the same age as me, you’re a reincarnated person right? If you teach me how you acquired so many skills in just 6 years, I don’t mind pulling back this time?”

Even though I thought that he possesses an Appraisal skill, he didn’t look like he was about 20 years of age so I was shocked as I didn’t suspect him to be a reincarnated person.

“I don’t know about what reincarnated person but I’ll restrain you here and make you reveal all your crimes.”

” ... As a reward for derailing my plans, quietly stand there and look as I make your own companions my pawns.”

The slaves abandoned their own lives as they all clung onto Shisho and Lionel.

“Don’t mess with me! Like I will let a person who relies on others to fight to hurt my important companions!!”

Breaking through my doubts after finding out that the opponent is a reincarnated person, I decided to cast 「Dispel」 using 「Magic Circle Chant」 on the slaves.

My magic circle was drawn over the bodies of the slaves.

“Tch, aim for that person in white robes.”

While pretending to be calm, the slave merchant seemed impatient as he ordered everyone to attack me when I activated my magic.

As expected, he doesn’t want to me dispel their slave crests.

I released 4 of the people with 「Dispel」 one at a time.

I believed that Instructor Broad and Lionel would completely stop the slaves approaching me so I focused on dispelling.

“Use your heads a bit when fighting. You trash!!”

The slave merchant instructed them to perform long distance attacks but I was protected from all those attacks by Cathy and Kefin.

Repeatedly casting 「Dispel」, the pressure exuded by the enemies weakened at once.

Then, when I had expended about half of my magical power, after I finished releasing all of the slaves, the combat came to a stop.

“You bastard, do you know how much time and money I spent to gather these amount of slaves!!”

Even though the slave merchant revealed his anger, I felt a sense of discomfort from the complete stillness.

For such a smart guy, would he snap just because his slaves were released?

I once again confirmed the situation and immediately gave out instructions.

“Even though I have released them from slavery, it doesn’t mean that they will stop ... listening to orders as slaves.”

My words gradually became softer.

Because while I was in the middle of shouting, Shisho and Lionel had already begun sorting the released slaves and cutting them down.

They probably noticed the cause for the sense of discomfort faster than I could.

That there were some among them that would attack us even after they have been released from slavery.

“Truly reliable. Cathy, Kefin, please protect the carriage.”

I decided that the defense here was already sufficient and requested them to protect the carriage.

Of course, the ones there can fight too but I don't want them to appear in front of this slave merchant.

“”Yes!””

Cathy and Kefin received my order and fell back.

I once again cast 「Area Barrier」 on everyone before staring at the slave merchant and he returned my stare with an expressionless face.

“Ah~ah, so dull~ the games ended. Even though I planned to use you all as high-level sacrifices after they sharply cut you all down when given an opening ...”

The slave merchant gave a dubious remark as the released former slaves were about to attack but the slave merchant raised his hand up towards the sky and a reddish-black magic circle appeared in the sky that released a magic with reddish-black light that blew apart the former slaves.

What exactly is this person?

Even though he's a reincarnated person, does he intend to be a field boss?

While tsukkomi-ing in my heart, I refined my magical power within my body and spoke to the slave merchant.

“What do you intend to summon with that magic circle?”

“Hou. I'm surprised you know that this is a summoning magic circle. Although it would have helped if you misunderstood it as an attacking magic. Perhaps it's still recorded in the church records? That's right, this is a summoning magic circle for the sake of summoning powerful demons or monsters. Despite the sacrifices being slaves, it's capable of summoning a slightly strong monster.”

Even though he mentioned live sacrifice himself, I could already see him as a person governed by insanity.

I'm interested in the slave merchant's story so I attempted to think calmly.

" ... Earlier, you mentioned reincarnation. If you are an existence that has experienced a rebirth, why do you deviate from the path of a human? With that head and leading ability, you should be able to get whatever you wish for!"

The face of madness changed to an expressionless face and glared at me.

" ... I have indeed died once and was reborn by the God's power. But what awaited me was ... this rotten barbaric world where it's the survival of the fittest. A person like you who was born with such blessed abilities would probably not understand."

The pressure exuded by the magic circle begin to rise.

It might be the thought of every reincarnated person.

That speaking of fantasy worlds, it gives the impression that anything can be done with magic.

But the reality is that it is a circumstance where you're next to death's door every day so it's probably not strange to become like the slave merchant.

“But that doesn’t mean that you lived all by your own right? There should have been people who supported you.”

“There was. That’s why I decided to take revenge against this world that murdered the people who supported me. I will destroy this world and rebuild it!!”

The man was elated, seeming like he was about to summon something evil.

And it looked like the man had no intention of stopping the summon.

” ... That’s unfortunate.”

“Kukuku. There’s nobody left to help you. You cheat bastard loved by the Gods, become my experience points!! Come out, wha, what?!”

『Bachi Bari bari』 The reddish-black magic circle begin to crack and a pale white magic circle covered over the black magic circle.

Using almost all of my remaining magical power, I overwrite the reddish-black magic circle with 「Sanctuary Circle」.

“Sorry, but I won’t let you summon it. For the sake of my dream, I will not let you spill any more meaningless blood!!”

The activated 「Sanctuary Circle」formed a light pillar that swallowed the reddish-black magic circle and the next instant, everything was swept away with a blast.

“Healer Luciel, I will crush your dreams the next time we meet so prepare yourself.”

I heard the voice of the slave merchant next to my ears the instant the explosion happened.

When the wind stopped, the figure of the slave merchant was nowhere to be seen.

Thus, while having a stomach ache from making a new enemy, I firmly swore to endure the training so that I won't die.

Chapter 157: Fate Of The Assailants

Since then, we could not find the slave merchant no matter how hard we searched.

Although there were many with serious injuries among the former slaves who received the attack from that slave merchant, miraculously, there were no casualties.

I had no choice but to drink MP potions and heal the former slaves until the point where they would not pass away.

“Nevertheless, I did not expect the ones who were slashed by Shisho and Lionel to still be alive.”

At that time, I saw them heroically slice them so I thought that they had been killed for sure but I was amazed when I found out that every one of them was still alive.

“Luciel, look at them closely. These guys are not all slaves right? The attackers were actually a coalition of slaves, bandits, adventurers and some country’s private soldiers. We tried to deceive the enemy to extract information.”

“Information huh ... Shisho. Even so, don’t you think you went a bit too far?”

Shisho laughed.

Just as I was about to ask if he didn't understand what I meant, Lionel also grinned and answered for Shisho.

“Luciel-sama, even if it's Whirlwind, it's impossible to completely defend against that number of combined attacks. Though he would not suffer any injuries if he stood at that front during his prime ...”

“He probably totally hasn't noticed but there's no need to lie to Luciel. Both this guy and I intentionally made it look like we were injured.”

“???”

Question marks lined up within my head.

“Ha~. Just by showing cuts on a single layer of thin skin to make an advantageous situation for the enemy, he will usually get drunk on himself and willfully become talkative right?”

“That's right. By showing like we were injured, we finally got the mastermind to appear just when Luciel-sama arrived.”

Shisho spat out a huge sigh as he taught me the strategy of pretending to struggle like in a difficult fight.

Furthermore, Lionel explained to me the situation at that time but there were points where I was unconvinced.

However, was everything Lionel said just now a lie? I considered if that was Lionel's own way of accurately discerning Shisho's condition.

When I thought about that, I felt that perhaps Shisho's combat intuition might have dulled.

... Shisho spends most of his time in the Adventurer's Guild's training ground.

Was that not meant to cultivate combat intuition? It is often the case in my previous life, as the years go by, what could be done in the past can no longer be done.

I don't know the Shisho of the past but compared to his adventuring time where he fought with burning life force, it's possible enough that the sense that is not reflected in skill and status may be dulled for the Shisho who continuously stays inside the Adventurer's Guild.

The highest numeric value for status exist but it does not mean that a person will consistently remain in the state of having the highest stats.

Is Shisho not still in the condition of test running if he can regain his actual combat intuition?

I reached that conclusion.

“Shisho, has your combat sense and combat intuition returned? Didn’t Shisho intentionally allow a thin layer of skin of yours to be cut for the sake of cultivating them?”

Like in combat training? I posed that question.

” ... Just a bit. These guys’ individual abilities are so-so but they were able to cooperate to an abnormal extent so I’ve returned to having combat power equal to current A-rank adventurers. Well, even though their quality was poor maybe because it’s a coalition, regardless of their scattered attack timing, they launched the worst kind of attacks where they attacked even their own companions so it was fun.”

Shisho said as if to shake off the anxious expression on my face as he gave his report on his analysis of the opponents and the situation.

I realized it was rather foolish to worry about this battle maniac.

“I don’t know how strong an A-rank adventurer is but if it was me, I would have died multiple times.”

“If you’d die from something of that extent, you’ll really die during training.”

Ah, I dug my own grave ... those eyes were eyes that told me he’ll half-kill me if I disappoint him.

My knees trembled at the sight of those eyes that I have not seen in a long while.

I'll change the topic.

Since I might die if the topic continues ...

“Ev, even so, you did a good job not killing them despite having to fend off that number of attacks.”

“In the beginning, I thought that it couldn't be helped if I killed them but the ones apart from the slaves who had no choice but to fight were weak. If it's just to hold out against those people, Luciel should also be able to do it.”

“Really?”

It seems like Shisho acknowledged my growth.

“Since I trained you so much, you won't lose consciousness just from pain right? Also, if you can use healing magic as well, it shouldn't be a problem if you only need to stall for time.”

Well, he didn't say that I would be able to fight them though.

I wonder if I have grown as a warrior?

“Luciel-sama, that’s Whirlwind’s way of hiding his embarrassment. This time, your excellent judgment of the situation and healing magic saved everyone including me. If you were slightly later, we would have no choice but to kill them.”

“Well, that’s true. Since the slaves were tied down by a curse. There should definitely be ones among them who were forcibly turned into slaves. That’s why it was a great help when you dispelled them from slavery.”

... Even though I’ve been thinking about this and that since just now, I was still convinced that these 2 are in another dimension.

They probably thought of disabling the enemies without killing them even under those circumstances.

If they unleashed their full strength, it would have ended without my intervention.

Well, thinking about it calmly, that’s only natural.

But then, I was curious as to why these 2 did not capture the slave merchant.

” ... But, I’m curious about that slave merchant.”

“Luciel, I’ll tell you beforehand, the one we saw was a fake.”

“Ha?”

“I threw a stone at him when I saw a chance but it passed through him.”

There’s probably a reason why they didn’t tell me that.

If that’s the case, I’ll ask about another question I had.

” ... We were targeted because I purchased the sisters but even so, didn’t he take action too soon?”

“You’re right. For him to invest this amount of combat force that can be said to be abnormal just to capture the sisters. His aim might possibly be Blange instead.”

“What do you mean?”

I didn’t understand how it led to Blange.

“He had eyes fraught with madness ... those are eyes from a person who was robbed of people or something important to him by an unreasonable power. Because Grandol is a country where the Adventurer’s Guild operates in, even though it looks uncivilized but an adventurer’s rank is everything. If something evil is done, a high ranker from the guild headquarters will mobilize to fix the problem so even if it’s a grudge towards a single person, he won’t

think of destroying the world. ... If it reached that point, his opponent should either be an organization, nobility or a country. It's because those sisters were born in Blange. Although we won't know the actual truth without catching him."

This person really puts the pieces together quickly.

If it's an organization ... won't it be fine if we ask the attackers who these 2 thought they seem to be a country's private soldiers?

"Even so, why Blange?"

"Intuition. However, without knowing who the sisters know, why they were so persistently attacked and if I am to elaborate further, looking at the private soldiers there, it might be violence that can escalate to an international issue."

Even though the combat just ended, he did well to deduce that from such scarce information.

This reasoning ability might be this person's greatness.

However, one thing that I was curious about arose.

" ... If that deduction is true, won't that slave merchant hold quite a serious grudge against me?"

"Didn't he already declare that?"

He certainly did specifically name me and declared that he will destroy my dream.

To want to crush the wonderful dream of having a peaceful life ...

” ... Well, what’s done is done. Leaving that aside, regarding these people’s treatment, what should we do with them?”

“If they were regular bandits, more than half will be killed as an example. Since it would take time to interrogate them. Well, this time it can’t be helped so we should probably transport them to the Adventurer’s Guild headquarters in Grandol and request for the professionals to handle it.”

While half will fall into despair, I was too scared to ask Shisho about which professionals he was referring to.

It took us 3 hours to return from the journey we took an hour to traverse previously. We plan to call a slave merchant at the Adventurer’s Guild headquarters, drop off all the slaves, and leave it up to the Adventurer’s Guild headquarters to interrogate them.

“Shisho, is it really all right to entrust this to the Adventurer’s Guild?”

“Yeah. I don’t really care at all if the guild headquarters think that Meratoni’s guildmaster is incompetent. The information we are looking for would probably come up if we just do an

investigation. As a result, I would be able to earn a favor as well.”

This person is a genius in thinking ahead.

“Is it regarding the matter you were investigating yesterday?”

“Yeah. Since the ones who will get into trouble if this incident comes to light are the management in charge of requests and adventurers as you can immediately tell that it is a result of negligence.”

“As expected of Shisho. Okay. What should I do?”

“Let me see ... it’s fine if you don’t do anything. Maybe just make sure these people don’t escape?”

“Okay. I don’t mind doing that ... no, thank you. I’ll also give instructions to Lionel and the others to cut them down if they escape.”

“I see. Then, wait here for a bit.”

Shisho said as he entered the Adventurer’s Guild.

That person’s greatness was his ability to reliably determine the important points.

Nevertheless, it's great that Instructor Broad looks like he is somewhat having fun.

"It seems like I am always being spoilt by Shisho ... Lionel, what do you think would have appeared if that slave merchant's summon succeeded?"

He's the same level as Shisho so he probably understood something too.

"If it's such a huge magic circle, it might be a large monster or if we're unlucky, a demon might appear."

" ... There were also demons at the village we stopped at before reaching Meratoni but what is your opinion on that?"

I was surprised nonetheless when I heard him say demon.

A person who can employ such a being would be monstrous.

I thought that the demons in that village were only affiliated with the Empire but maybe I was wrong?

"This time would have been different. This time, it would have been a summon subjected to subordination to the slave merchant who made the magic circle. It would clearly be a demon of different status compared to the ones we fought with."

“Now that I think about it, the Empire is close to the demon’s territory but have there been wars?”

“Yeah. There were frequent conflicts up until about 20 years ago.”

” ... That’s the period when there were changes to the Emperor, Prime minister and influential nobles right?”

“I’m surprised you know about that. After the death of the previous Emperor, the representatives were replaced altogether. Well, it was unrelated to me who worked as a general at that time though.”

” ... Just since when did you become a general?”

“Since I was 20. So nostalgic.”

He was even younger than I am currently ... thinking about it that way, I could tell just how excellent Lionel was.

When I was able to verify that Lionel is not an ordinary person, Shisho came over with a couple robust men and told the attackers to enter the Adventurer’s Guild and took them along with them.

“Luciel, the attackers will be turned to slaves. Their sale returns will all be credited to your account.”

“Is that all right? It would be fine if Shisho accepted it instead. Since I had you accompany me in Grandol ...”

“Then, for the sake of appeasing everyone when we return to Meratoni, help me treat everyone to alcohol.”

“All right. Oh right, if the rookie adventurers who Cathy and Kefin captured didn’t realize they were working for evil and were deceived, please release them. Since they should be able to start over.”

During the journey back to Grandol, there were some among the rookie adventurers who cried towards the prospect of becoming slaves.

Seeing that, I decided to release them if they really didn’t know anything about the incident this time.

Even if their luck was bad, holding the feeling of being saved, they should be able to work hard to crawl up from the bottom.

I believed in that.

” ... So naive. However, without such leniency, it might give birth to men like that slave merchant. All right. I’ll put in a word for them. Well then, the time now is not here nor there so what should we do?”

“We can camp out as well so let’s proceed on. Instead of getting

caught in a trap again, I think we should move forward to polish ourselves even if only slightly.”

“Hou, well said. As expected of my disciple. Then let’s get ready to depart.”

“Yes.”

Thus, we entrusted the attackers to the Adventurer’s Guild and we departed for the ant labyrinth for the sake of polishing ourselves.

Chapter 158: The Ultimate Goal Of Training

In the vicinity of the labyrinths in Grandol, there apparently will be the existence of, though small, towns. Advancing on the carriage a short distance after sunset, we saw lights from a distance away so we no longer needed to camp out.

Having a town beside the labyrinth puts it in danger if the monsters overflow from the labyrinth, like what happened this time, but the Adventurer's Guild headquarters operates in this country so it would likely be resolved quickly.

The reason for the towns is to secure a stable supply of magic stones for export to Nelldal as the sole country to be able to do so.

“Shisho, why have we come to the labyrinth even though we can already see the town?”

“Because the current you don't have the air of tension ... of well-honed senses. It's for the sake of cultivating that.”

” ... Was there a time when I had that air?”

“Yeah. When I fought with you in the Holy Capital's Adventurer's Guild. I thought that it would have been great if you continued to grow like that but unfortunately now, not to mention a sense of danger, there isn't even enough sense of tension.”

... The time when I fought in the Holy Capital was, if I remember

correctly ... during the time I conquered the Labyrinth of Tribulations.

The time when I dove in the labyrinth for a long time and somehow escaped while having the feeling that I was going to be killed.

Just recalling it makes me feel that I did really well to survive through that ...

“That’s because I was desperately trying to survive at that time ...”

“That’s what the current you is lacking. With Sen’oni around, you would be able to weather through most battles so you probably have a sense of security. However, I feel that the sense of security has dulled Luciel’s rate of growth. To make up for your lack of talent, you have spent a longer time than Sen’oni and me on the verge of death and it should be possible to regain that sense. From this point on will be your real training.”

Well, these 2 have likely been on the verge of death before but they probably did not experience losing arms and legs for over half a year like me so Shisho’s words might be true.

But what worried me the most was the words ‘it will be the real deal from now’.

“Well, I think that it wouldn’t have been strange if I fell into

madness at that time ...”

Because my Mental Resistance increased from drinking Object X and because I had Angel’s Pillow, even though I thought about a lot of things, my biggest focus was to not give up.

But I have a feeling I would immediately regain that sense if I fight with the 2 of them?

“Luciel, acquiring your well-honed sense is not our only goal, this time, the training is for the sake of converting your cowardice into your own weapon. That’s why there is a need to corner you ...”

” ... What exactly do you plan to do to me?”

Shisho’s freezing glance caused the pores all over my body to open and cold sweat to pour out.

I had prepared myself for Instructor Broad’s training but hearing his words to push me into a corner caused my body to cower with fright from the realization that it won’t just involve some half-baked content.

Thinking back, I wasn’t allowed to use heal at all for muscle pains and bruises, he used real swords to slash at me even though it was training and he released bloodlust to determine if I really could no longer stand or not, there weren’t any decent memories.

“If I say it in simple terms, I plan for you to be able to live your

life with just your mind and magical power senses.”

“Ha?”

“Normally we won’t be able to use such a dangerous method but if it’s Luciel who is able to use healing magic, you’ll definitely be able to master it. The essence of martial arts, to read the signs and perceive the best timing to counter an opponent’s attack.”

Even if you tell me such manga-like moves ...

However, whenever Shisho says it with that kind of hopeful feeling, I know that if it’s viewed from a probability standpoint, the chance doesn’t even reach 50%.

” ... Has anybody ever succeeded?”

“Including Rainstar-dono, there has been many who have. Well, it’s said that Rainstar-dono listened to the voice of the Spirits so it might be slightly different.”

Even if you tell me with that nice smile ... looking at it from the flip side, it’s the same as saying Rainstar-dono couldn’t do it or that there wasn’t a need for him to do so?

They want to make me learn that but is there really a need for me to learn it?

For an ordinary person like me ... I felt bloodthirst from behind my back and turning back, I saw Lionel and the others who looked like they were having fun.

“Splendid. From now on, let’s gradually increase the things you are capable of.”

“Everything except for bloodthirst was missed out so it might take some time nya.”

“We’ll also give our full support so let us grow stronger together.”

“Since it’s Luciel-sama, he’ll definitely be able to achieve anything.”

“Lydia and I will also assist Luciel-sama.”

“Even though I only have weak ability to sense the magical power of Spirits of all attributes, please allow me to assist.”

My retainers were brimming with motivation for some reason.

Moreover, I’m concerned about why they are so delighted to hear about my training but they will definitely regret making me go through this special training.

Since without having to focus on me, Shisho will spend his spare

time on everyone else.

Furthermore, it would be a hellish world where naivety would totally not be tolerated.

“Work hard to live up to your followers’ expectations.”

“Gyaaaaaaa.”

The moment my training content was decided, all of the sudden, Shisho crushed my eyeballs.

Just as I tried to quickly use 「Extra Heal」, I sensed bloodthirst from Shisho and distanced myself.

“Good reaction. It’s fine if you want to use 「Heal」 to remove the pain but if you heal yourself until you can see again, this time, I’ll gouge out your eyeballs.”

I knew that those frightening words were not just a threat.

Shisho is a man of his words.

However, I decided to prove that, unlike the yes man I was before, I can also say no now.”

“Shisho, when will you be having your mock battle with Lionel?

I've been looking forward to both your performances. Don't you 2 have something you have to do that comes before my training?"

"Of course. However, both Sen'oni and I have to dust off our rust before we can return to our prime. If Luciel can grasp presence and magical power by sensing the breath of the earth and the torrent of the atmosphere, by mimicking all that I do, you should be able to sublimate it into something that you can call your own. Once you achieve that, no matter if your opponent is a dragon or a demon, there's no reason for you to not be able to win. If it is for the sake of letting my disciple reach that realm, I will work towards my prime from now on."

"Whirlwind. Luciel is not just your disciple. Well, I approve of that spirit. But, just mimicking is not sufficient at all. If you want him to be able to sense movement, there's also a need to raise his physical ability like his reflexes and techniques to handle them to be able to react to those movements."

"... Things like that can probably be done easily once his level increases. Furthermore, once he is able to grasp presence and magical power, by mimicking us, he should be able to feel the difference compared to himself."

The final destination of these 2 people's mimicking training ... is way too impossible.

"Luciel, shift your feelings into gear. If you succeed in it all, a peaceful life awaits you."

With that said, I could hear Shisho's footsteps go away.

While thinking about how unreasonable that man is, I felt a sense of nostalgia towards this training that is mean for my sake even if it's unreasonable.

Under the condition of having lost my sight, the thought of how harsh it would be to pass through the ant labyrinth made me feel like tearing up but I decided to work hard if only for the sake of living up to their expectations.

"It looked like Shisho has not eaten yet but maybe we'll have lunch first."

"Of course it's a given that I'll be eating too."

As if having heard me, I could hear the footsteps of Shisho turning back.

Since a list of food stored within will appear in my head by touching my item bag, there was no problem with regards to everyone's meal.

However, unable to eat without guidance even if I'm handed a spoon and fork in my hand, I received the humiliation of being spoon-fed ... by Shisho.

"Luciel, the current you is like a baby. If it's vexing, become able to sense everything."

Even though I knew that was a pep talk, I can't just remain like this and I can't leisurely take my time without knowing when I would be able to succeed, so I focused my mind on my heart's support that can be said to be my tranquilizer.

It was my 「Skill Proficiency Appraisal」.

I made the decision to begin working on searching for the more efficient learning method to increase my proficiency by checking what action raises my proficiency while without my vision.

This feeling that I had not felt for a long time gradually turned my unease to a sense of anticipation and I poured in all my effort in order to surprise Shisho.

Chapter 159: Once Again, Spartan Training

In the darkness where light cannot be felt, I walked while being guided by Nadia and Lydia on my left and right.

They weren't holding my hands but were only verbally guiding me but even that helped a lot.

I walked while confirming the path ahead using my Illusionary Cane/Staff but I've already almost stumbled and fallen several times so I was about to get cold feet.

Thinking about it made me feel slightly depressed.

I knew that I was entering the ant labyrinth but the eerie circumstance of not entering battle at all caused me to feel anxious as I stepped forth.

All the while praying that I will somehow move intuitively if anything dangerous happens because I have the danger perception skill ...

However, something I did not imagine happened.

“Well then Luciel, try to survive with your vision like that.”

After I seemingly heard Shisho's voice say that, I was pushed on my back and my danger perception skill suddenly began to react.

I was convinced that I was brought to some monster room by Shisho.

“What’s the meaning of this, Shisho?”

“Try defeating all your enemies while in that condition. Your opponent is a horde of ants so there’s no need to hold back. This is a rudimentary step taken because of what you lack. Work hard~.”

The next instant after I heard Shisho’s amused voice that was the polar opposite to my anxious voice, I heard the sound of heavy doors closing and there was no reply even when I called everyone’s names.

” ... Seriously?”

To be honest, faced with the level of poor treatment incomparable to the past, I could not believe Shisho’s words for a moment.

For a person who can’t utilize presence perception and magical power perception well to be subjected to such poor treatment, Shisho’s training is seriously unconventional.

Just hearing the 『Kisha Kisha』 cries and the 『Saku Saku』 sounds like the sound of legs creeping on the surface of the ground made it feel like my heart rate spiked all at once but in order to secure my safety with what I am capable of at the moment, I invoked 「Area

Barrier] and attempted to watch for the timing when I receive attacks.

I transformed my Illusionary Cane to its sword form and swung it in the direction of where I sensed a tingling sensation but not only did that attack not hit, it backfired on me as I felt a light impact on my abdomen.

I somehow flung my fist parallel to the location I received the attack and an unpleasant gooey sensation was transmitted to me.

” ... I see. The opponents are weak but numerous. So I will be able to sense the opponent’s presence and magical power like this?”

Fixing my goal as I naturally did not want to die, I stored my Illusionary Sword in my item bag and took out the Holy Dragon Spear to extend the distance between me and my opponents.

While focusing on the tingling danger perception, I began concentrating in order to sense presence and magical power.

Reading the situation by relying on sound, I sharpened my senses and attacked.

If I hit, I repeatedly corrected my error in sensing and allowed the feeling to permeate into my body.

Once I was comfortable with that, I then released my magical

power externally and searched for the external sensation but that did not work at all.

“I forgot that labyrinths emitting magical power.”

I felt troubled for forgetting that important point but conversely, if I am capable of searching for magical power apart from my magical power and the labyrinth's magical power, won't I similarly be able to grasp other presences? With that thought, I was suddenly feeling motivated.

“Shall I go at it in a positive mindset after such a long time? Well, the ants have retreated ... ouch?”

The instant a presence entered my sense when I sharpened my senses with all my nerves, some liquid suddenly hit my hand and it was slightly itchy so I applied 「Heal」 just in case.

“Maybe they are able to spit something like acid? If I don't concentrate more, Shisho will laugh at me ... that's the only thing that irritates me so I'd hate it if that happens.”

I spread my legs shoulder width apart, lowered my hips, readied my spear and calmed my spirit with stable breathing.

The condition where I can only attack after receiving an attack was extremely vexing so my spirit seemed like it would break quickly.

Even so, because my proficiency rose ever so slightly judging by my proficiency appraisal, I was confident that what I was doing was not wrong.

It felt to me that the people connected to me in this world are sensitive to presence and magical power.

And they vaguely felt the fact that I (for being a reincarnated being) am a person who does not possess that sensitivity.

They probably accumulated experience on it since young.

Since the growing up phase is the golden age for acquiring techniques.

Even so, for the sake of my dream, I can't die here.

“Even though it's true that people who have stacked training since young would be strong, I should be able to do so if I put in effort that exceeds that. Dear ants, you will be the food for my growth and my supporting foundation.”

I relit my motivation by thinking positive but what awaited me was not attacks but Shisho's attack using words.

“Then I'll raise the difficulty slightly for the next round. Don't mutter to yourself on your own in a place like this. It's making the people here feel embarrassed.”

“Eh? Shisho? Since when?”

“From the start. Since I am aware that I am making you do something unreasonable. However ... I think you’re putting in too much motivation for just 10 of the weakest ant monsters but ... oh well. We’ll be moving to the next hunting ground.”

Suddenly attacked by intense shame, I wanted to hide in my shell like a shellfish but there’s no way Shisho will let me do so, so I began moving forward.

I felt the atmosphere of not only Shisho but also everyone else resisting the welling urge to laugh but I understood that they were here to cheer me on so I smiled and gave my all as I cried in my heart.

Without sparing any time for sleep, I was brought to the next hunting ground one after another and I was told by Nadia that 2 people monitored me until I defeated all the opponent while the others either took breaks or had mock battles.

“I didn’t imagine that I would be using 「High Heal」 like this countless times so isn’t Shisho being too excessive?”

“Everyone can sense with their skin the strength of Luciel-sama’s Shisho a.k.a Whirlwind-sama as well as Lionel-sama.”

I heard that Nadia requested Shisho and Lionel to teach her but

she seemed like she was having quite some fun as her voice was lively.

” ... Those 2 aren’t having their mock battle?”

“Yes. Since they don’t seem like they would settle for a draw once they fight, for now, all of us have mock battles with either one of them.”

As expected of rivals, they won’t settle for a draw.

Even so, Cathy, Kefin, and Estia should be quite strong too but if those 2 can still obtain a complete victory, have they always been that strong?

It’s possible that an ordinary person can’t grasp the greatness of a person over level 400 so I spat a sigh and was laughed at by Nadia.

While feeling slightly nostalgic, I requested of Nadia for just one matter going by their personality.

“Even though those 2 are strong, please tell them that I want them to come over if they get injured.”

“Yes, sir.”

Although I felt that I was slightly being laughed at, since the time they spent assisting me was long, I had the chance to talk with

Estia, Nadia and Lydia so it felt like the distance between us shortened slightly.

My resting time was to be when we move to another hunting ground and the time I spend casting healing magic, as well as when we had meals and I was told that I can sleep anytime.

As I got to know the difficulty of maintaining concentration as the ants gradually became stronger and their numbers increased, I poured all my nerves into sensing presence and magical power.

Repeating that action, after the end of our 7th meal, I acquired the 「Magical Power Perception」 skill.

However, it was from that point that I felt that life was not that easy.

I moved from a level where I could roughly know where the presences were but then descended into a level where I conversely did not know where the presences were.

” ... Does this mean it is equal to not being able to distinguish between the labyrinth’s magical power and the monster’s magical power?”

I was able to tell at the shallower portion of the labyrinth where the labyrinth’s magical power was weaker the magical power of the monsters but that phenomenon happened when I descended to a floor where the magical powers were almost the same.

Just as I thought that I would be able to break through the ant labyrinth when I can somehow overcome this situation, Shisho called out for me to stop.

“This won’t really function as training so we’ll move to the next location? Luciel, take out the horses using your Hermit’s Key and the carriage from your item bag. Also, take out the food too. You can sleep a bit after that’s done if you want to.”

Following Shisho’s instructions, I took out the carriage and food and for some reason Angel’s Pillow as well before my danger perception activated with a tingle the next instant and I felt a sharp pain in my abdomen.

“Gaba!? What?”

Following that, I felt another tingle and after receiving a shock to my neck, my consciousness faded away.

My consciousness returned with the sensation of a rattling shaking motion but because of a severe headache and sore neck, I healing myself with 「Middle Heal」.

“Where am I?”

“Luciel, you’ve awoken. I felt bad but you totally did not sleep during the labyrinth dive so I knocked you out and used that pillow to let you sleep.” (TL: Lol how’s that needed with the power of

Angel's Pillow?)

” ... Thanks to that, I slept well but the sensation after waking up was the worst.”

While having mixed feelings about Shisho's overenthusiastic method to make me sleep, they informed me before I once again asked where we were.

“We'll be reaching the Hungry Wolf Labyrinth soon and we'll be having the training there this time.”

I wanted to ask if the Hungry Wolf Labyrinth was where wolf monsters appear but knowing that I have no right to refuse, I just nodded in silence.

When I opened the Hermit's stable to herd the horses in, even though I could not see with my eyes, I could clearly identify just the presence of Fornoir.

Then, she approached me and once again play bit my head before returning to the stable.

“Fornoir ... probably emits too much presence.”

I laughed at my own strangeness but because I suddenly laughed, I felt some slightly weird gazes.

We had our meals immediately after arriving at our destination, the Hungry Wolf Labyrinth, and my training began after I took a break for a moment.

Even though I was properly equipped and I had erected a 「Area Barrier」 to absorb impacts, I was unexpectedly sent flying and my balance crumbled.

Furthermore, they cooperated with each other so it was nasty.

Without being able to rely on sight, I distinguished their movements from their soft footsteps and breathing and although I sensed the presence of the wolves that charged at me and somehow cut them down, if I did not strike them optimally, the stench of their blood would attract others and I felt the number of wolves steadily increase.

Even so, without giving up, I desperately defended the space between myself and my opponents no matter what happened to look for the right opportunity.

Once I strengthened that resolution, by the second meal time since we came to the Hungry Wolf Labyrinth, I acquired the skill 「Presence Perception」.

“Might I be a genius?”

When I muttered that, a grand sigh came from behind.

While thinking that I once again showed Shisho my embarrassing side, in my elation, I announced the results of my training to Shisho.

“Shisho, it seems like I have acquired the Magical Power and Presence skills so I have come to understand the benefits of perception and, little by little, the sense of finding the appropriate opportunity.”

“I see. It’s going quite smoothly. Moreover, you have a strong will ... that’s exactly why you are my disciple.”

” ... Shisho, what’s wrong?”

I suddenly had a very bad feeling.

“If you sense a strong bloodthirst, think of it as me or Sen’oni and don’t attack. If we grip your elbow then it’s to lead you to move. If we touch your right shoulder then it’s the cue for lunch break. Touching your left shoulder is a cue to apply your healing magic on us, hitting both your shoulders is the cue to take out the carriage, if somebody hugs you, use Extra Heal on yourself. Have you remembered all of it?”

“Eh? If it’s just that then I should be able to remember but ... ?! Gyaaaaaaa!”

I felt a sharp pain in both my ears with a 『Paan!』 and after that, there was complete silence, in that total darkness, I felt like I was

in a deep sea where nothing can be heard except the rising beat of my heart.

I used 「Heal」 without hesitation but I did not regenerate my eardrums.

Because I would be able to see Shisho turn into a demon with my eyes if I regenerate them.

While thinking that the demon inside Shisho was having a slight conflict within him, it has become a training to rely on only magical power and presence after losing my sight and subsequently my hearing, I felt the beating of my heart throb even more than usual.

Thus, the severity of my training further increased.

Chapter 160: Unexpected Incident

There were many times when I thought of throwing away everything during my about 40 years of life if I include my previous life.

Even so, by diligently accumulating experience without giving up, the endpoint will certainly come some day.

Then, it will be followed by the start of something else.

Against the wolf monsters that are the starting monsters when learning to fight monsters, I was bitten countless times but thanks to my equipment and 「Area Barrier」, their fangs did not reach my flesh so I was totally unharmed.

It was one thing to be yelled at by Shisho but being wrapped in an air of silence also made me notice some things.

I knew that wolves would appear in the Labyrinth of the Fang Wolf but even though in the beginning they mostly moved in a linear motion, they gradually began to have more attacking variations like kicking off the walls or attacking while cooperating with one another.

Because I was on the receiving end of varied attacks, I was forced into struggling battles and I gradually felt like I was under immense stress.

However, whenever that happened, somebody from the female team will firmly hold my hand without fail and I would regain my calm every time.

Occasionally, maybe due to the sense of security, I end up falling asleep but Shisho did not reproach me for that so I was able to maintain my spirits even in such harsh conditions.

After the 22nd meal since the start of my training, my Magical Power, Presence and Danger Perception skills all leveled up together and I felt like I was able to distinguish whatever was within 1 meter of me, albeit just faintly, so I began to feel the results of this harsh special training.

Then, I even acquired 「Intimidation Resistance」 which was a godsend but that was really just a bonus.

Without concentrating, I gradually became able to notice the faint presences and magical powers that were nearly drowned out by the labyrinth approach me and by sensing those presences that entered my combat space and cutting them down, I was able to raise my skill level.

Am I growing stronger little by little?

It would be great if that is true.

When I reached that level of perception, my arm was pulled by Shisho going by the sensation and I received the cue to take out the

carriage.

It probably meant that I have graduated from this labyrinth.

When I used the Hermit's Key, as usual, to take out the horses, I absentmindedly stared at the conspicuously large presence of Fornoir but I noticed it take shape.

Then, when she play bit me, I felt my gloominess and the stress accumulated in my mind disappear.

I once again fell asleep accompanied by intense pain.

When I woke up to the vibration sensed by my body, I healed myself with 「Middle Heal」 just like the previous time.

Thinking that it would definitely be a tour of the labyrinths, I continued meditating until we reached the next labyrinth.

While thinking of the day when I would be able to distinguish everyone's presence and magical power by color, I had my meal before I began my training.

When I was led into the labyrinth, I prayed that I do not lose my sense of smell, taste, and touch.

Then, although my prayers were answered, from the smell emitted when I cut the monster that approached me, I recognized

that I had slain a goblin.

I was slightly confused.

I wouldn't really be bothered if the goblins attacked with clubs or rusted swords but in actual fact, they attacked in a versatile manner with accurately aimed arrows and released magic so they were actually tremendously dangerous monsters.

Well, since I have magic and presence perception skills, I might be able to somehow sense it but because I am not able to recognize their weapons the way I am now, my impression was that it was way too dangerous.

I heightened my concentration and searched for any presence and magical power that was out of place while I braced for their attacks.

My nervousness was rising noticeably from the sweat on my hands.

To be safe, I readied my shield that didn't really seem reliable to me but I concentrated in order to escape from an instantaneous death.

However, I noticed one thing.

In comparison to the sensation of how the ants and wolves looked at me as food, I faintly sensed the goblins direct bloodthirst

or rather hatred at me.

I didn't know why that was the case but noticing that was certainly helpful to me.

By sensing the faint magical power and presences attacking me, I fought with my feet planted firmly in the ground against the increasing hatred directed at me but even while I suffered attacks, I noticed that there was no need to be afraid of them any more than necessary.

When I was brought deeper into the labyrinth, the magic concentration thickened and it became harder to distinguish monsters using Magical Power Perception and the presences were mixed up due to the increase in the number of monsters so it became harder to grasp everything.

Even so, thanks to my Danger Perception, I was able to somehow avoid fatal injuries.

That tingling sensation became my lifeline.

During meal time, I activated 「Area High Heal」 for everyone while making sure to not include myself in it.

It's hard to explain why I did so but I peeped at Shisho and Lionel and it felt to me that everyone's presence had weakened.

Even though I applied my magic, I was not able to tell everyone's

expression nor could I hear everybody's voices so it was purely for my own self-satisfaction ...

My proficiency rose by 1 point the instant I sense the opponent once and I could see it rise over 3 points if I can clearly distinguish the opponent by the end of the battle.

For that reason, I could tell that it was a skill that was inherently easy to level up.

I could guess that the reason why the skill did not reveal itself until now was because I did not know in what way I could use it.

It's probably a skill that is extremely difficult to manifest.

Without my sight and hearing, Presence Perception and Magical Power Perception integrated with and heightened my Danger Perception so it would likely transform into my weapon one day.

Giving it thought, it is extremely likely that I might achieve the Mind's Eye that often appears in manga and novels.

I vaguely thought about such a thing.

It was going smoothly but it's impossible for everything to go according to plan.

That holds true for both Shisho and me.

Since in the first place, I am not a special human.

That was immediately after the 36th meal when the labyrinth capture was going smoothly, my Presence Perception and Magical Power Perception reached LvIII and my combat space had stretched to 2 meters.

While feeling puzzled at the presence and magical power of the individual that was completely different compared to goblins, I activated 「Area Barrier」 on all my allies and entered my battle stance after activating it on myself too.

At that time, the thought of using Extra Heal did not surface in my mind at all as I merely thought of removing the lump that was in front of my eyes so I channeled magical power into my Illusionary Sword and circulated magical power throughout my whole body as well.

At that time, I heightened my concentration to the limits so that I won't die, read the bloodthirst emitted by the monster by combining its presence, magical power, and hatred and decided to defeat it while giving up on my thoughts at the start to attack first.

Because I thought that it would be truly reckless to advance without grasping the current terrain.

As if it understood that, it felt like the monster scoffed at me as the bloodthirst disappeared.

Then, after that scoff, the bloodthirst suddenly strengthened and sensing the danger, just as I readied my shield with my body bent, I felt a tingling sensation that was stronger than any I've felt before.

The next instant, 2 presences started running towards it.

It was probably Shisho and Lionel.

Because my perception level rose, I was able to notice the 2 of them.

They probably reduced the numbers all along and disposed of any dangerous monsters.

I felt at ease leaving the task to the 2 of them but because this time they did not do it without me noticing like before, I decided to join in.

Regarding the terrain, I reached the conclusion that since it was a labyrinth, where there was magical power meant there was a surface so I began running too.

Perhaps my act of running over was outside its expectations, the bloodthirst swelled in my direction as if directly aimed at me and the instant the tingling sensation intensified, I kicked the surface and leaped into mid-air to evade.

When I felt the tingling danger sign get interrupted for a moment, I stored my Illusionary Sword in mid-air and took out the Holy Dragon Spear before throwing it.

I don't know if it hit or not but the bloodthirst definitely dispersed.

Shisho and Lionel crossed to its left and right.

Even though I could only see it as a mental image, I felt my heart beat faster as I once again took out my Illusionary Sword when I landed, aimed at the mass of magical power and presence and rushed over with my body lowered.

The moment I sensed the tingling sensation, I poured all my magical power to slash at the mass in front of me with my Illusionary Sword.

The same time I completed my swing, it felt like the black mass burst open.

However, the next instant, an intense pain ran through my body and it felt like my consciousness was about to drift away but knowing that it would be bad if it continued, I somehow chanted High Heal but not only did the pain not subside, it conversely became worse.

While thinking that such a thing has not happened before, I thought that maybe I was being punished.

If it can't be healed, it might be a curse.

However, just as my consciousness was slowly fading away.

Somebody hugged me.

When I noticed that, I activated 「Extra Heal」, 「Dispel」, and 「Recover」 at the same time with No Chant.

When I was wrapped in the light, I thought I saw an angel smile at me with a troubled expression but the angel disappeared when the light gradually subsided.

In exchange, I heard and saw everybody's worried expressions and voices.

Shisho was making a face as if he was about to cry and he was hugging me being the one who was the most worried.

Feeling relieved that I had survived, I did not resist the attack of drowsiness and I released my consciousness.

Chapter 161: Prophecy

I woke up to the gentle caressing of my head.

“Fwua~, hn? Hermit’s Key?”

I noticed that I was on a bed when I woke up and was clenching onto the Hermit’s Key for some reason.

“Since when? Leaving that aside, it seems like both my eyes and ears are fine. I don’t feel anything abnormal with my body too!!”

Getting off the bed, I once again stretched myself and I checked the condition of my armor after recalling the battle I was in but it was not damaged at all.

“So was that stinging pain really from a curse after all? Or was it a different injury that 「High Heal」 couldn’t keep up with?”

Shisho and the others entered the room just as I was making my conjecture.

“Luciel, we were worried you know? Even though you couldn’t see, you still rushed to slash that demon, I really thought that my heart was going to stop.”

“Eh? Demon?”

I recalled the hair-raising sensation once I was told that I fought a demon instead of something like a goblin king.

So I probably would have died if I slipped up? So they are that strong if I do not set up 「Sanctuary Circle」?

“Yeah. Nevertheless, to be able to knock down a demon with a single attack that Sen’oni and I couldn’t deal serious injury to even by cooperating, as expected of my disciple.”

I could tell that Shisho was delighted from the bottom of his heart but recalling the scene of this person crying after I defeated the demon, perhaps he conducted the training under tremendous conflict within his heart.

“Luciel-sama, I’m glad that you are safe. Whirlwind, don’t you have something you have to say properly?”

Lionel showed a relieved expression seeing that I had recovered but he immediately said that after glancing over at Shisho and Shisho looked at me with a determined expression.

“I was about to say it. ... Luciel, regarding the training this time, I’m sorry.”

Then, Shisho abruptly sat down and prostrated to apologize to me.

My thought process grounded to a halt for a split second.

I couldn't articulate well from the shock and somehow squeezed out a question.

" ... For?"

Lionel replied to that instead of Shisho who was prostrating on the ground.

"Apparently, the Prophet in the guild headquarters made a prophecy. That soon he would protect somebody and die. That's why he lowered his head to us to proceed with that unreasonable training and hushed us."

A prophecy from a Prophet of the guild ... but I don't think he would normally believe it?

But since the mines between Meratoni and Grandol disappeared and the incidents with dragons, spirits, demons and reincarnated person happened one after another, I guess it's not unreasonable that he believed it.

So everyone did not tell me about it because he asked them to keep quiet about it?

I felt the story begin to add up.

It's true that it was a severe training but I couldn't wipe away the

feeling that I ended up pressuring Shisho.

I spoke to everyone after helping Shisho up.

“Perhaps we’ve also mentally pressured Shisho into a corner? Furthermore, I’ve somehow survived anyway.”

After becoming the guildmaster of the Adventurer’s Guild branch, he’s not been active as an adventurer for at least 7 years so it can’t be helped that he had weakened from inactivity.

Since Shisho is the type to do what he’s set his mind to thoroughly.

“Nevertheless, I was still shocked when he crushed your eyes and destroyed your eardrums nya. I could only view the person who still continued training in that state and the person who conducted the training as abnormal nya.”

“It was the first time I observed Luciel-sama’s training but I feel like I had a glimpse of what people call a spirit of steel.”

Kefin immediately followed up after Cathy’s honest opinion but I could tell that he was trying to draw attention away from her.

Maybe they weren’t enduring their laughter but actually killing their thoughts that he had gone crazy?

“Well, normally one would use an eye mask instead of crushing the eyes and ear plugs instead of breaking the eardrums but since Shisho does not do anything meaningless, I decided to trust Shisho.”

When I said that, Shisho gave out an awkward aura for some reason and absolutely did not make eye contact.

“Shisho?”

But Shisho remained silent.

“I understand the relationship between mentor and disciple. Even so, it was too excessive and I couldn’t help but worry.”

“The spirits and I were worried too.”

Lydia and Nadia broke the silence and there were no smiles on their faces as they were still worried even now.

My heart squeezed a little after seeing the expressions they made.

While noticing that Estia wasn’t present, I asked about what happened after that.

“What happened after that?”

“About half a day has passed since that battle. Right before Luciel’s swing, the demon mustered the last of its strength to craft a mixed magic of Darkness and Wind and countless small holes appeared throughout your body. But it gave the feeling that they would remain there without disappearing. Since it was impossible for normal healing magic to cure that, I permitted the use of 「Extra Heal」 that is capable of healing everything.”

I would have died if I made even a slight error. Feeling terrified at that thought, I changed the topic.

“By the way, I don’t see Estia around?”

“Estia?”

Shisho acted like he could not remember Estia.

Although Lionel and the others remembered her, their memories for these couple of days were hazy.

There’s no doubt that the Darkness Spirit used quite some power.

Among them, only the Spirit-user Lydia properly grasped Estia presence.

“If it’s Estia-san, she’s sleeping in the neighboring room. It seems like she overused the Spirit’s power. She was reckless to the point that the Light Spirit had to be called forth.”

The Darkness Spirit might have planted the suggestion in me to take my Hermit's Key from my item bag while I was asleep.

I vaguely sensed that Fornoir was the Light Spirit I saw but if the Darkness Spirit did not overdo it, there's a high chance I would still be unconscious.

Even though I didn't trust Estia, thinking of how Estia used her power for me to the point of collapse, I thought maybe I've been unconsciously looking at her with prejudice from the Empire slave and Darkness Spirit incidents.

Thanking Estia in my heart, I decided to also properly thank Fornoir and the Darkness Spirit.

I asked Shisho about the training since I had to end the training halfway.

"So Shisho, what kind of training has been planned for the future?"

"... Once you can sense your opponent without relying on your vision and hearing to a certain extent, you can have your vision and hearing back and the plan would be to have repeated mock battles. Your opponents would be one-vs-one with me and Sen'oni and against the remaining 5 simultaneously. I'll say it beforehand that winning is not the goal. The finish line would be when you can see and remember Sen'oni and my combat well and we can gradually increase Luciel's limit value by hunting monsters. Your

goal was to become the strongest Healer but ... you might already have become the strongest among Healers ...”

Shisho stumbled for words for an instant but he happily said that with a smile.

Don’t tell me he plans to cancel the training? Unfortunately, I don’t have the intention to do that at all.

Then, if I can secretly drag him into the party as a helper, won’t I be able to break through all the labyrinths that have dragons in them? I began envisioning that blueprint.

Even so, I totally don’t feel like I can win in the mock battles that Shisho put together but thinking about the prophecy that Shisho would die protecting somebody, that somebody would probably be me.

If that’s the case, once I become stronger, Shisho would probably be able to calm down.

I decided to show some filial piety to my mentor.

“Then, we’ll rest for today and the training will start from tomorrow. However, Shisho, is the Adventurer’s Guild in Meratoni really fine?”

“Yeah. If there are any problems, I’ll be notified through this.”

Shisho said that and took out a magic communication bead.

“Magic communication bead huh? But isn’t that the type that has a certain range?”

“That’s right. That’s why I also asked the Adventurer’s Guild here if they received any messages and they said that the monster attacks at that side have ceased so there’s no problem. Furthermore, it’s been half a month since the training started.”

“Half a month? I thought 20 days has already passed? Since we’ve had more than 60 meals?”

“Yeah. Since halfway through I changed to 5 to 6 meals a day so you might have been mistaken but since your stress levels would accumulate with little sleep, I distracted you with meals.”

I’ve not heard of such logic? Shisho?

But I did not dispute it.

Since I was not able to hide my surprise that my perception abilities rose to Level III in just half a month.

As expected of a spartan training, it seems like it was quite a considerably useful special training.

After that, we talked for a bit before they invited me for dinner but I decided to refrain this time.

After checking that everyone had left the room, I opened the Hermit's stable and perhaps Fornoir was tired, I saw that she was sleeping.

I don't know if it has any effect but I activated 「Extra Heal」 and 「Purification」 before I closed the Hermit's stable.

“The training will start from tomorrow so even if my opponents are those I definitely cannot win against, I will at least obtain the strength to definitely be able to escape.”

After swearing to my heart to clarify my aims, I took out the Transformation Dresser from my item bag and took off my armor before continuing to eat the meals in my item bag until I had my fill.

After that, I took out Angel's Pillow, prepared to sleep early so that I could be prepared for tomorrow and proceeded to consolidate my mental image on Presence Perception and Magical Power Perception.

Chapter 162: To The Labyrinth Of Traps

It was still dark by the time I woke up but after rapidly circulating magical power within my body with magical power manipulation and performing mental images for the perception-type skills like how I did last night, the morning sun came out.

“Being able to see is wonderful after all.”

I earnestly thought so as I looked at the morning sun before leaving my room.

When I stepped out, I ran straight into Kefin so he was probably guarding my room.

“Good morning Kefin. Thank you for keeping a lookout.”

“Good morning.”

Kefin merely smiled but didn't touch on the topic of keeping guard.

I didn't really know how my training would be conducted so I asked Kefin.

“This past half a month, everyone had mock battles too right?”

“Yes. It was quite intense until Luciel-sama lost your hearing.

After you lost your hearing, we began technique training and your 「High Heal」 when the repetitive training had caused our fatigue to accumulate really helped us.”

” ... Well, a certain degree of preparedness is needed when under Shisho’s instructions. Moreover, Shisho and Lionel’s fundamentals deviate from the norm ...”

“Indeed ...”

Kefin and I both laughed when we both nodded in sync.

Only the word harsh can fit the experience of being worked hard by those two.

“They probably thoroughly investigated the ant labyrinth before guiding me in right?”

“Yeah. Whirlwind-sama did a preliminary examination on everything. He looked quite worried as he was fidgeting most of the time but training became stricter when we ended up laughing.”

To either be overprotective or to be spartan, Shisho couldn’t be clear.

While feeling just slightly exasperated, I thought of heading to Estia’s place but it felt a bit too early so I asked Kefin.

“I wish to visit Estia but I have a feeling it’s a bit too early right now?”

“Yes. Estia is currently in the same room with Cathy and those sisters so do you think it is a good choice to visit that room before breakfast time?”

It was a reply that I had anticipated so I wasn’t flustered.

“I see. Has anything out of the ordinary happened?”

“No, there hasn’t.”

I boldly used this chance to try asking Kefin for his true feelings.

“Do you not feel uneasy with the Spirit blessings or going into labyrinths to release the dragons?”

“No. On the contrary, I’m thrilled by it. Just like how when Whirlwind-sama told us about the prophecy that he would die protecting someone and that he wishes for Luciel-sama to inherit his techniques, I also wish to see the time when Luciel-sama is heralded as a hero.”

Kefin said with shining eyes.

“I think writing my biography would not be very interesting though?”

“That depends on how the people writing it view it.”

I thought to myself that unless I leave behind achievements that approach Rainstar-dono's level, it wouldn't really be enjoyable to read.

We headed to the canteen after finishing that morning conversation and while waiting for the others, I asked Kefin about his impression on perception skills and his mental image when using them. He said that although he doesn't understand Magical Power Perception, he perceives by olfaction and presence.

I realized that the skill image differs among humans and the various races.

“What about Cathy?”

“I'll discuss with her if we have the chance during our journey back to Ienith. Since I also wish to talk with Naria-san about it too.”

Looking at Kefin's slightly embarrassed smile, I could tell that he could not completely hide his happiness aura.

“Please think of the future as well when considering my offer to release you from slavery. Though I would hope that you continue as my follower.”

“Yes.”

After that, everyone else gradually gathered and even Estia who I was worried about came to say she was fine and to eat breakfast so I was relieved.

“Shisho, do you have any place in mind for the mock battle location?”

“Yeah. I’m sorry for bringing up unwanted memories for the 2 sisters there but I think we should go to the Labyrinth of Traps.”

There’s no reason to go there.

The dragon has already been released and even though I’m worried about the core, it is a weapon used to call the Evil God so I’d prefer not to approach it if possible.

” ... Why?”

“Because the Labyrinth of Traps is just right for leveling up. Furthermore, Sen’oni and I will also be fighting the monsters without holding back to complete our final preparations.”

“Luciel-sama, this is a request of mine not as a retainer but as a warrior.”

There was no way I could say no after Shisho and the others

appealed to me as warriors so I gave up.

We should be fine as long as we don't touch the core and though I'll definitely be going to the Labyrinth of Traps, I sought confirmation from Nadia and Lydia.

"... Okay. Nadia, Lydia, what do you want to do? Will you come with us? Or part with us here?"

Not wanting to make them recall painful memories, I could not ask them to follow us.

The 2 of them looked at each other and both nodded as Nadia spoke.

"Please allow Lydia and me to accompany you all. Since we feel that we will be able to aim for greater heights as adventurers when we are with everyone here."

She asserted.

"Kefin, I believe the detection and removal of traps will be harder than the labyrinths we've been in until now but I'll entrust it to you. Cathy, please support him."

"Yes!"

"Estia, I will be relying on you this time too."

“Er, yes. The same goes for me too.”

She looked surprised that I suddenly lowered my head but while wishing that she would be able to somehow adapt to our party, I decided on our objective for the future.

After checking out from the inn and purchasing large amounts of food, we departed for the Labyrinth of Traps.

After departing, Nadia passed me the Holy Dragon Spear and Illusionary Sword.

“Thanks. But why are they with Nadia?”

“The dragon’s power apparently repulse the others. Even I can only hold onto it but not wield it so I stored it in my magic bag.”

“I see.”

When I channeled magical power into the Holy Dragon Spear and Illusionary Sword, a pale light spread throughout my body and scarlet, brown and yellow circles of light appeared and disappeared in sequence.

Realizing that they were my exclusive weapons made me slightly excited.

In order to cool myself down, I closed my eyes and focused on using my whole body to search for magical power and presence.

Is this any different from searching for enemies? My consciousness expanded even as I pondered that question and although it was hard to sense presences, I found something with magical power perception but ... for some reason, the sense disappeared just as it appeared.

When I was curious and asked Cathy and Kefin who were in the driver's seat, the 2 cavalries had already defeated the presences like it was natural.

I felt that the 2 of them were really gradually becoming more amazing.

Then, after the carriage ran non-stop for 3 hours, we arrived in the vicinity of the Labyrinth of Traps.

After seeing the Labyrinth of Traps, I decided on the first words to use.

“What the heck is this?”

It's without a doubt the location of the labyrinth going by the map but, for some reason, there was a towering mountain in place.

“That's strange. When we entered it, it was like a cave.”

Nadia looked at Lydia for her agreement but Lydia seemed like she didn't hear it.

” ... I hear a voice.”

Lydia muttered and begin walking.

” ... It might be a spirit so let's follow her. We might even be able to find out the reason for this.”

Although she was only walking along the mountain instead of climbing the mountain, she only followed the words she heard and walked while completely defenseless even when the bird-type monsters approached from the skies so it became a strange group formation where all the members walked while defending Lydia.

“It must be the influence of something after all for these number of monsters to appear. If I'm not mistaken, this should be the mine that occupied the space between Grandol and Meratoni.”

” ... If that's the case then monsters with attacks that cause abnormal conditions will appear too?”

“Yeah. Moreover, they should be strong ... it's quite mysterious but it has become interesting.”

Shisho was rather pleased.

After continuously walking for less than an hour since we caught up to Lydia, I noticed the smell of sulfur.

I could only associate the smell with hot springs but when I studied the local specialties and places of interest of various lands a long time ago in the past, it wasn't written that there were hot springs in this region?

I followed after Lydia while having that thought but before that, Kefin and Cathy looked like they were suffering so I passed them nose plugs.

While thinking that for beastmen who possess many times stronger olfactory sense than ordinary people, the unique smell of hot springs should be quite painful for them, we advanced and saw a geyser gushing out.

“You'll get burnt if you touch it so please be careful.”

I explicitly told everyone since 「Area Barrier」 can't prevent that from happening.

Then, Lydia abruptly placed her hand on the surface and a magic circle formed, causing a little fire bird that emitted scorching heat to appear from the scarlet magic circle.

If I could only see it visually like before, I might have made a fool of myself but even without closing my eyes, I could tell it exuded

amazing presence.

Lydia seemed like she was about to collapse like her role had ended so her elder sister Nadia supported her.

《I am the Fire Spirit. The person with the Spirit King's blessing dwelling in her body, the person who has received many spirit blessings and the person who receives the affection of the Darkness Spirit. You've done well to come.》

A ceremonious voice unimaginable from the little bird in front of my eyes echoed in my head.

“Fire Spirit. Seeing that you beckoned the girl holding the Spirit King's blessing in a manner that would not be an exaggeration to say it was against one's will, is there an emergency?”

《It helps that I'm able to speak to many blessing holders at once. Actually, in the gap when I was sleeping, this mountain was transferred.》

“Transferred?”

《Indeed. The ones capable of this should only be the demons but I can't sense the magical power of demons at all.》

If it's not the work of man, doesn't it mean it's the work of the Evil God?

I had a terribly bad feeling about it.

” ... Still, we won’t be able to demolish something like this and our objective is the Labyrinth of Traps that was supposed to be here ...”

«Umu. Don’t misunderstand me. For this mountain right beside us that has been transferred, I can reverse the transfer.»

That means, there is only one thing the spirit wants of us.

” ... You mean to say you want my magical power?”

«Exactly. It’s not just for my sake alone. If such a large landform like this is transferred, the habitats around the mountain will undergo changes and even the flow of the stars will change.»

” ... What should we do?”

«Umu. Let me first give you my blessing. Then raise both your hands and overlay them like you are wrapping them around each other.»

When I reluctantly raised both my hands and overlaid them, the mechanical sound of an announcement flowed through my brain.

«Fire Spirit’s Blessing acquired.»

《Well then, firmly hold onto your consciousness.》

The moment it came into contact with me, it gradually enlarged until it transformed into the figure of the legendary undying bird Phoenix.

While feeling impressed at its appearance, I looked towards everyone's direction and even though Estia and Lydia were shocked, in comparison, Shisho and the others were only staring at me without looking upwards.

I recalled that only the kin of spirits could see them but thanks to that, I was able to calm down as there was not much excitement from their side as my feet staggered from the continuous sucking of my magical power.

Then, when I was left with about 1%, the Phoenix cried and the mountain disappeared with a flash.

《Holder of the Spirit King's blessing, refine yourself so that I will be willing to obey you. Holder of the many spirit blessings, I will await your call.》

I don't know if it was a phoenix or a salamander but the Fire Spirit disappeared.

I knelt down after somehow weathering through.

It felt like it was Space-time magic that used to transfer that mountain but I guess anything goes for spirits.

And I understood that that power is not something man may utilize.

I took a deep breath and explained to everyone who was worried about what happened.

” ... If that’s what happened, the distance to Meratoni will return to the 2 days travel like before. Well, if the spirit corrected the distortion in the world, it can’t be helped.”

I also thought so but I had slight suspicions that it just didn’t like the mountain being in this area.

“However, after the mountain is gone, we can tell that we’re a distance away from the labyrinth.”

Since we walked all the way here, we could no longer see the labyrinth.

“Although the spirit was unreasonable, this time the mountain was returned so the outcome is all right? Lydia is fine too?”

“It seems like I have slight magical power depletion but I’m all right.”

“Do you have any magical power potion?”

“I’ll be fine after resting for a bit.”

Lydia declined the potion.

“Is that so? Then, we’ll rest for awhile and Nadia, could you briefly explain the monsters and traps that appear in the Labyrinth of Traps?”

“Okay.”

“That’s important too but we should eat when we have the time to eat.”

Since Shisho put forth his suggestion, we ate an early lunch as we combined knowledge from Nadia and Lydia who actually dived into the Labyrinth of Traps as well as the information gathered by Shisho and Kefin to challenge the labyrinth with the shared information.

Chapter 163: As Expected Of Another Dimension

As expected of the labyrinth called the Labyrinth of Traps, there were traps scattered everywhere.

The troublesome thing was that the traps would regenerate after some time after they've been disarmed so it didn't look like it would be easy breaking through the labyrinth.

People have cleared the labyrinth countless times in the past but it's apparently a forbidden labyrinth where none of the parties ever returned without casualties.

That should have been the case but Shisho and Kefin were disarming one trap after the other and we didn't even encounter many monsters.

“Compared to other labyrinths, not only are the walls and ceilings distorted, do monsters not appear in this labyrinth as well? Or is it because it is a labyrinth where monsters truly don't appear unless the traps are activated?”

When I closed my eyes, I was shocked at the intensity of the pure magical power in this labyrinth.

We've only traveled through the first half of the labyrinth until the 10th floor but we've been advancing without entering battle even once.

However, I felt a sense of pressure where it wouldn't even be strange if a demon appeared.

“During our time here, we got caught in a trap on the 15th floor and encountered the hydra so I don't think weak monsters will appear.”

They were behaving stout-heartedly but the sisters were, in fact, trembling so although I could empathize with their will to conquer their trauma, it doesn't look like we can count on their participation in combat.

It looks like they have disarmed the final trap before the entrance to the 10th-floor boss room.

“Since the monster in the boss room is random, take action instantaneously after seeing the boss ... Luciel, are you really fine with this?”

The boss in the boss room is randomized. When we obtained this information, it was determined that I would be the first to enter the boss room.

“Yes. If possible, I hope I draw a ghost-type monster.”

I commented as I opened the door and advanced. Raising my weapons and moving to the center, the monster that appeared was the pitiful Big Wraith.

When I activated 「Purification」 with 「No Chant」, it was purified completely in one go and it disappeared along with a pale light.

“Easy victory. Well then, Shisho, Kefin, I’ll be relying on you 2 once again.”

When I said that with a smile, for some reason, Shisho sighed, Lionel and the others made wry grins and the sisters were astonished.

“Please don’t forget that we came here to fight?”

Shisho found fault in my actions.

Although it’s a labyrinth where monsters don’t appear at all, the 2 of them were tasked with disarming a serious amount of traps as we advanced peacefully.

Then, when we arrived at the 15th floor, Shisho shot a question at the sisters.

“Do you wish to overcome your trauma by fighting the hydra? Do you wish to win even if it’s with everyone’s help?”

The 2 of them nodded even though they had pale complexions.

“Well, considering the lack of opponents till now, shall we make

them appear?”

“Please do avoid instant deaths okay?”

Everyone nodded to my remark.

I won't let anybody die, including myself. I once again swore to myself that I will keep everyone alive and not let any casualties appear as we entered the transfer zone to the hydra's location under the 2 sister's guidance and we were warped over.

My impression of it was a kind of multi-headed dragon so it won't be strange if a breath attack was sent flying over.

Even though I was beaten black and blue when I fought with the Fire Dragon a year ago, for some reason, I completely didn't feel any fear this time.

“””””Gugyaooooo!”””””

It's roar threatened to shake even the labyrinth itself and the echoes were extremely noisy so I involuntarily replied with a yell.

“Stop barking you 5-headed small fry!!”

Because I yelled at the hydra, it seemed to have turned hostile towards me and decided to target me but I was completely unafraid perhaps because it was a dragon-type.

I quickly activated 「Area Barrier」 and observed Shisho and Lionel's movements closely while grasping the movements of the others.

While holding my Holy Dragon Spear and Illusionary Sword up, I noticed that the hydra appeared cautious towards Shisho and me which made me remember that Shisho had also slain a dragon before.

Matching gazes with Shisho, he approached me and instructed me on the guide to attacking hydras.

“Listen well Luciel, the multi-headed dragon typically releases long-distance breath attacks but only 2 or 3 of the heads will release the breaths at the same time. Apart from that, it will only attack by either biting or by using its tail.”

“It won't try to claw using those thick arms?”

“It won't do so when it releases its breath attack. What you must take note is to not stand directly in front or behind it. If you're beside it, it would be easier to attack as you can tell which head would be releasing the breath. Watch.”

Shisho left with those words and without me noticing, appeared a few steps beside the hydra that was 30 meters away. While avoiding the breaths, he sliced off its right arm near the shoulder instead of its head and kicked the dragon's head before returning to my side.

“I forgot to mention but in the case of multi-headed dragons, their heads are capable of regenerating and when you thought that another fire breath will follow after it released a fire breath, beware that the next breath might be a petrification breath. Sen’oni, I’ll be beheading it since it’s getting troublesome so please help me scorch it.”

Shisho, first thing first, I don’t think I’m capable of those movements.

He’ll probably not listen to my complaints but if I become capable of movements similar to Shisho, I believe I would definitely be world-class.

“Don’t be late in escaping and get caught in the fire.”

“Who do you think I am? I’ll leave a single head.”

Shisho said and laughed at Lionel’s joke and once again approached the hydra from an opposite side this time at a tremendous speed before sending its left arm flying and he tossed something from his chest pocket.

The next instant, an intense light was released.

Flash bang!? While I was surprised, Lionel activated his Flaming Greatsword and after he swung it 4 times at a speed I could barely register, 4 fireballs of about 2 meters in diameter flew forth with

amazing momentum.

Then, they impacted the hydra in the blink of an eye, burning the base of the necks.

When I was still surprised by the explosion of the impact, Shisho was already beside me laughing without me noticing.

“See? If you attack from the side, you won’t have to worry about getting damage right?”

I feel bad for Shisho who had a beaming smile but I would totally not be able to use this battle as a reference.

I exclaimed in my heart but I only gave a bitter smile on the surface.

No, not only myself, I’m certain all the other members other than Shisho and Lionel would not be capable of pulling off the battle that just took place.

I totally could not understand why a person possessing the ability to insta-kill a hydra would be stationed in the guild and why Shisho would retire from adventuring.

“Gugyaaaaa!”

My thoughts were drowned out by the cry of the now single-

headed hydro that was still intent on fighting.

“You can become a Dragon Slayer as long as you deal damage. Everyone come give it some scratches.”

Lionel announced to all the members.

Reluctantly, I took command from that point.

“Beware of the breath and although we can’t be certain that the heads won’t regenerate, if you wish to deal damage, please attack the wounds where the arms were sliced off or the stumps of the necks. Please just beware of the breath attack.”

“”Yes!”” “””Yes.”””

We begin a combined attack against the hydra.

Lydia raised her Spirit Staff and after muttering something, a flame spear and wind spear appeared in mid-air before flying towards and directly striking the hydra.

The hydra raised a tremendous bellow either due to anger from the pain or irritation towards the lower-rank attack compared to the one that left it with one head.

I stood directly in front of it so I was expecting a breath attack to come but contrary to my expectations, it rotated its body to use its

tail. Just as it was about to mow us, me including Estia and Nadia, down, Cathy and Kefin kicked off the wall and gouged at its wound.

Thanks to that, the 3 of us didn't fall prey to its tail.

It turned its focus towards Cathy to spit out a breath attack but it was already too late.

Estia and Nadia thrust their swords into the stumps of its arms as I, in the state of having channeled my full energy to strengthen my body, swung my Illusionary Sword to slice off its final head.

Then, to be doubly sure, I pierced the stump of the neck that I beheaded with my Holy Dragon Spear.

The hydra staggered and crumbled as it collapsed backward, leaving only a magic stone in place after disappearing.

It somehow felt like it was the first time I defeated a monster with a party.

But I decided to honestly rejoice today for gaining victory over a big foe.

Would one immediately become a Dragon Slayer upon defeating the hydra?

There might be some who are curious about that but it's apparently common knowledge that you will only acquire the title if you manage to leave the labyrinth.

It probably means that we're in combat until we return.

Nevertheless, even though Shisho and Lionel's strengths were slightly too much in a different dimension such that they couldn't be taken as a reference, I spurred myself on to approach their strength ever so slightly by the time I leave this labyrinth to reach the peaceful life I desire.

Chapter 164: Random Boss

It's great that we defeated the hydra but the problem came after that.

The magic circle we came in by wouldn't start up and when we dove into the magic circle the sisters used when they somehow escaped the hydra, we appeared at the entrance to the first floor.

“My trap detection and disarming skill will likely increase if we continue doing this for a long time.”

Shisho was the first to react to my comment.

“Now that I think about it, didn't I make you study on how to disarm a trap long ago? It's a good opportunity now so let me teach you.”

The moment he said that and smacked my shoulder, I realized that I had dug my own grave.

This time, our goal was to reach the 10th-floor boss room but unlike the labyrinths I've been in, it would take no earlier than a couple of hours to once again arrive at the 10th floor even if we knew the paths in this labyrinth. There were that many traps to that extent.

Well, apart from the pitfall traps and transfer traps, the other traps were only arrows or needles that cause poison or paralysis so

it didn't look like it would pose a problem even if I advance by taking them all with my body.

While I had such thoughts, I decided to refrain from saying such rash remarks.

It's said that the mouth is the cause of calamity and I had a premonition that something even more terrible will befall me once I say that so I concentrated on searching for the distortion in magical power within the labyrinth as we advanced.

By the time we finally arrived at the 10th-floor boss room, my stomach was already empty and although Shisho boo-ed at my performance, the female team thanked me for my work so I didn't feel irritated.

Shisho looked on as he opened the door leading to the boss room so I had no choice but to proceed and the boss waiting inside was a robot-like golem.

“Shisho, is that boss clad in lightning?”

Well rather than lightning it's more like electricity but if there are impurities mixed within then it should short-circuit if it touches water but ... is the water created by Lydia's Spirit Magic pure water? It happened when I was still lost in thought.

“It's troublesome so I'll just go kill it.”

Shisho said before running towards the golem.

The golem released a lightning attack at the approaching Shisho but he easily dodged it and I could tell he stabbed at the golem continuously but the moment his attacks landed, the golem crumbled into pieces and turned into a magic stone.

“What happened exactly?”

As expected it was Lionel who replied me.

“Both golems and slimes possess a nucleus and if that is broken, they will not be able to maintain their form and breakdown. Whirlwind probably destroyed the nucleus by stabbing various locations at high speeds.”

I could understand the explanation but it would be a ‘no’ if you asked me if I could do it.

This person really possesses the strength of a different dimension.

“Luciel, we’ll be staying here today. We’ll be having a mock battle after our meal.”

” ... Okay.”

I couldn’t decide if I was fortunate or unfortunate to have the

opportunity to spar with this Shisho of a different dimension.

Well, what await me is a hopeless gap in combat prowess so I should be able to fight without holding back.

I purified the boss room while having that thought and when I took out the self-cooking utensils, it seemed like Estia and the sister are able to cook properly.

Cathy looked like she was staring at them from afar so I told her to do it together with them and asked them to kindly teach her how to cook.

I laughed when Kefin bowed towards me deeply.

However, that was where my laughter came to an end.

“Luciel, you can attack whichever way you want. I’ll wait for your attack before retaliating. I’ll let you know beforehand that you’ll lose consciousness in one go without your barrier so remember to set it up before you attack.”

He had not surprise attacked me like before so I felt that he had become gentler.

Until now ...

Whenever I attacked while in physically strengthened condition,

he would definitely be ready with a counter technique.

Whenever I attacked with a straight punch, a cross counter will be waiting for me every time.

Furthermore, considering it's a mock battle, he taught me my combat style and weapon handling style in more detail compared to before.

While explaining the pros and cons of sword techniques, spear techniques, double spear techniques and taijutsu utilizing bare hands, we sparred countless times and he showed me counters.

“Luciel, what you have obtained from the training until now is the ability to predict the opponent by sensing the movement of presence and magical power. It would have been impossible to learn this in half a month without a proper foundation. Furthermore, the person's disposition is important. To be able to have hypersensitivity to sensing danger, it would be impossible without the resolution to not waver, to never give up and to not back down. Now then, you now stand at the brink of the finish line so try defeating me.”

Shisho said to ignite my fighting spirit.

“Here I come.”

I strengthened my body and released an attack the same instant I activated 「High Heal」 but I was rolling on the ground the next

moment.

“Luciel, attacks where you disregard the damage to your body is effective during certain times but it is not the right choice every time. Look at your opponent properly. If you are always conscious of your opponent’s movements using your perception skills, you have the potential to accumulate that image into your experience.”

He was saying phrases like from a manga protagonist aiming to be the world strongest but is it actually possible to break through the bounds of talent?

“「Middle Heal」. ... Shisho, are you talking about future sight and future prediction?”

“Only a handful of individuals blessed with innate talent will be capable of that. But, even for ordinary people like me and you, we are capable of surpassing people who possess that talent. By imagining strong and concrete battles and accumulating combat experience, it is possible to surpass them. Although if you don’t continue doing so, the ones with innate talent will quickly catch up to you.”

Shisho lightly scratched his head as he said that.

But, sadly, when Shisho grouped me together with him, it completely lost its persuasive power.

Rather than that, I have doubts as to whether Shisho is actually

an ordinary person.

“Shisho, I don’t understand why you would think of yourself as an ordinary person.”

” ... I dreamed of becoming an Imperial Knight since I was young but I was discharged when I was 15 years old. So I had no choice but to become an adventurer but I was stuck as an E-rank even until I was 20 years old. Then, I had a chance to meet the S-rank adventurer party at that time and I got to know the gramps in the party and had the opportunity to begin training. For five years, I spat blood and endured the gramps’ training with a steel spirit until, without me noticing, I reached the position where I was on par with the S-rank. Luciel, that’s why even though you don’t have innate talent, you who possess the talent of hard work and perseverance is my disciple and my successor.”

To be honest, I could not believe that story but it didn’t look like Shisho was lying.

At that time, I suddenly remembered my previous life.

The successful colleague who entered the company at the same time and had the same sales position suddenly stalled on the 3-year mark, got demoted and left the company.

While I who always could not get promoted and had results that barely meet the requirements remained.

Our sociable manner was about the same but he had better knowledge and speech so he was steadily promoted from the first year.

In comparison, until the 3rd year, I still continued to struggle with only newbie contracts.

Just like the fairy tale of the rabbit and the tortoise, I did not even advance half the pace of the rabbit's progress but by increasing the number of cold-call telephone appointments, memorising the unique quirks of the negotiation partners, slowly creating new customers, and acquiring recommendations, I reversed the situation after 3 years.

The reason why I did not give up then was ... ah, I see.

I was simple and naive too.

When I look back, I could recall the reason why I worked so hard at that time.

I have apparently forgotten about how even if the laws and environment changed compared to my previous life, there were still some aspects of this world that resembled my past world and that this was an extremely benevolent world towards those who continue to work hard.

Did I reach Level X in Holy attribute magic because I had talent in it?

If I'm asked that, I would deny it.

Similarly, by having plenty of training at Shisho's place, the result is that I've now defeated many monsters.

"For now, I'll do everything I can but I am still just a Healer so please go easy on me."

"I'll first instruct you on how to satisfactorily handle your weapons. Next, to make you capture the flow of the battle, I'll make you conscious of all your perception skills. Lastly, I'll have you understand the whole picture by having you take command. Because you are just simply a Healer. Well, it won't trouble you if you become stronger."

"... Well, that is true."

"... You've suddenly become so obedient."

"I carry the title of being your disciple so rather than object hesitantly, it seemed better and more refreshing to squarely exchange blows."

"I'll be knocking you out before that."

Thus, my special training with Shisho continued until the food was ready.

After having our meals, I sparred with Lionel and when everyone was training with Shisho, my training for today ended to allow for me to recover.

The next morning, everyone begin to wake up just about when I finished making meals for everyone since I was the first to wake up.

Then, when the female team asked me for the recipe and I passed them the recipe collection that I have not taken out for a long time, it became a lively breakfast.

After our meal, we resumed our dive into the Labyrinth of Traps.

Because I was receiving instructions from Shisho and Kefin about trap removal, our advancing speed was extremely slow but since monsters didn't appear, we advanced while steadily disarming traps.

“All things considered, wasn't the map for the labyrinth expensive?”

“It was 10 gold coins. It's because while the traps in this labyrinth regenerate, the treasure chests regenerate too. It'll probably not be that much of a loss. Although that's including the hope that we find treasures.”

The labyrinth dive proceeded with that kind of peaceful

atmosphere and when Lionel opened the door to the 20th-floor boss room, the opponent was a giant Cyclops.

” ... Aren’t Shisho and Lionel’s luck way too bad?”

However, since Shisho and Lionel were both combat maniacs, in spite of the Cyclops appearing, they were both delighted.

“Then, this time I’ll be the one going out.”

He said that and requested for the large shield kept in my item bag as well as an 「Area Barrier」 before running towards the Cyclops.

“That’s still pushing it a bit too far ...”

Just as I was about to give out instructions to everyone, Shisho caught my shoulder.

“There’s no way Sen’oni would lose to a monster like that. I don’t think it will be useful as a reference to you but watch carefully.”

Even though I trusted his words, I was standing by prepared to activate healing magic at any given time.

Cathy next to me looked uneasy too as we watched Lionel’s back as he advanced forward.

The Cyclops was an one-eyed humanoid but it was truly a giant with a height greater than 10 meters, a body that supports that height and an intimidating aura that was close to the one from that Red Dragon.

But Lionel did not slow his advance and when he entered the Cyclops' range, it swung down its arm towards Lionel.

Lionel predicted that and even though the floor sunk down from the impact when he stopped it with his large shield, he splendidly received the attack and sliced off the large tree trunk-sized right wrist with his flaming greatsword.

We who were watching could not understand the reason why but as it screamed in pain, it used its other arm as if to clobber Lionel from the side but he once again received it with his large shield and without minding the slight depression made to the ground, he sliced off its left wrist.

The Cyclops did not give up and this time, it tried to stomp down but Lionel easily avoided it and after slicing off its right ankle, it could no longer get up.

Then, Lionel called out towards our direction.

“There’s a chance one might become a Giant Slayer so please put in an attack.”

I feel bad for the Cyclops but I placed a single blow.

It's exactly like power leveling and we're like leeching off him but since it's not a game, I gladly accepted it.

After that, Lionel sent the collapsed Cyclops' head flying and the combat ended.

We took a short break there and departed after we had a light meal and reaffirmed our goal but as expected, there were no signs of monsters as we silently advanced and by the time we reached the 30th-floor boss room, my Trap Disarm and Trap Detection skills leveled up by 2 each.

I opened the door.

A headless knight on a black horse appeared.

It's probably a Dullahan.

I tried activating Sanctuary Circle before combat. Since I thought that it would disintegrate if it was an undead.

However, it seemed like it was not an undead but a type of sprite so I attacked with everyone.

Shisho and Lionel had their arms crossed so I guessed that the 2 of them won't be participating as I gave out commands to everyone

else.

I'm not as strong as Shisho and Lionel to be able to fight alone.

“Cathy, Kefin, please attack from the sides, Lydia, use your Spirit Magic, Estia and Nadia will join me to bring down the horse while keeping an eye on the knight.”

After I activated 「Area Barrier」 on everyone, something unexpected happened when we approached the Dullahan.

When Cathy and Kefin attacked first and intersected, the Dullahan fell off its horse.

When Lydia released Spirit Magic and Estia and Nadia stabbed the horse with their swords to be sure, the Dullahan disappeared and dropped 2 magic stones.

“Was it weakened by the 「Sanctuary Circle」? Or was there a factor that worked on the sprite?”

I muttered as I turned back to seek Shisho and Lionel's advice but they gave me the same expression as when I defeated the King Wraith at the start.

I realized that I would definitely not be allowed to open the boss room doors for the duration of this training. (TL: Lol Great Luck-sensei is still working behind the scenes?)

Chapter 165: Broad Versus Lionel

As I was the first to wake up, I began making breakfast for everyone just like yesterday.

Yesterday, after we conquered the 30th floor, the 5 of us excluding Shisho and Lionel did Taijutsu training they referred to as mock battles.

In actual fact, we had to evade the Spirit Magic cast by Lydia from outside and while the remaining 4 people could grab one another, we could not grab hold for more than 3 seconds and it was something like a game of tag with irregular aikido rules.

The rule was to not resist the opponent but to move in the direction you are pulled towards so as to break the balance of the opponent but you had to evade the other 4 catchers while also evading the magic thrown from outside so it was an exercise that really tests your concentration towards the opponent's movements and the magical power from outside as you have to react accordingly to them.

But even when I was hit with the Spirit Magic or thrown using Taijutsu, it didn't hurt at all so it felt interesting like I had returned to my childhood.

Although, after that, we had mock battles with Shisho and Lionel yesterday and apart from the 2 of them, we all ended up like corpses and I had to heal everyone with 「High Heal」 ...

After breakfast, we advanced to the 40th floor but there were traps that I could not disarm so I had to leave it to Shisho and Kefin.

We still kept vigilance but as expected, not a single monster appeared even until we reached the 40th-floor boss room.

Shisho was the one who opened the door to the 40th-floor boss room.

“It probably doesn’t matter who opens the door. Since our aim is to level up by defeating monsters here for a while and firmly continue training.”

He said only that and quickly entered.

Since he mentioned that we might not be able to leave from the 50th floor and that we’ll be battling here to level up, does that mean I’ll finally be able to see the battle between the 2 of them?

I was slightly excited just from thinking about it.

The 40th-floor boss was a feathered monster with lion, goat and snake heads.

According to lore, Chimeras are capable of spitting breath attacks, they will scratch and bite when in close quarters but it seems like they also fly in midair.

If I have to choose, a Gryphon or Wyvern would probably be easier to fight ...

For now, I activated 「Area Barrier」 on everyone and waited for Shisho's words ... oops, he's already charging over.

As expected, it seems like he thinks that it's best if everyone approach it this time so while expanding my field of vision, I was standing by ready to cast healing magic anytime.

To be safe, so that it would be fine even if I get poisoned, the remaining magic bag was now being carried on Lydia's shoulder.

I felt that it would not be effective on me but the snake possessed poison, the goat released lightning and the lion spat out flame breaths.

But within this constrained space of an estimated 30 meter squared area, it was more disadvantageous for the Chimera than for us.

Since it would receive all our combined attacks once it stops its attack.

Although I could not make any moves since I didn't know how Shisho was planning to fight ...

As I was thinking, Shisho once again threw a flash bomb from his chest pocket towards the Chimera and instantly closed in and beheaded the goat head with a flash.

“[Recover]”

I immediately cast magic on Shisho.

Because I saw the tail with a poisonous snakehead bite him the instant the flash went off as though it had no effect on it.

Nevertheless, I wonder where did he obtain those flash bombs from ... it's convenient so I want them too.

When I vaguely checked the combat situation, Lionel had swung his Flaming Greatsword and released a ball of flame.

Using flame on an opponent that spits out flames?

Despite my doubts, Lionel released a high-speed ball of flame towards the lion head which directly swallowed it and just as it was about to spit out a flame breath, Shisho appeared behind it and beheaded it, causing the head to explode when it fell off.

Lionel released the ball of flame just to grab the lion's attention and Shisho used that opportunity to behead the lion.

That perfect cooperation gave people the impression that they've

been working as partners for many years.

There was a small explosion when the lion's head fell down so I activated 「High Heal」 on Shisho just to be safe as he stopped his attacks and returned to us when the Chimera was left in the state of having only its snakehead tail left.

“I overdid it a little but show me how you all defeat the flying poisonous snake.”

“Okay. Let's go, everyone.”

The feeling of chagrin welled up but it was probably a strong monster that was capable of instantaneously killing any of us at our current ability so we focused on just defeating the poisonous snake.

“Even if you level up and your physical ability rises, it would be meaningless if you can't utilize it. Also, through the countless fights, search for the monster's weak points.”

“””””Yes!”””””

Our feelings stirred as if we had received smacks on our back from Shisho and Lionel.

When I was resting after we had repeated several battles, I tried asking Shisho a question.

“Shisho, the rank of the monsters in this labyrinth surpass the ones I’ve encountered in labyrinths I’ve dived into in the past by far but do you know any reason why that is the case?”

” ... That’s because of Lionel and me.”

“What do you mean?”

“The monsters that appear in this labyrinth apparently change according to level. That’s why strong monsters appear when Lionel and I open the door but low-rank monsters appear when Luciel open the door?”

” ... Wasn’t it said to be random?”

“That is true too. While monsters that you can easily defeat may appear, the reverse may naturally occur too.”

Undead-type ... even if the Dullahan is an exception, that does seem to be the case.

“So the goal is to level up by fighting monsters, raise our status and learn to fully utilize them by training?”

“You’re so inflexible Luciel. When your status rises, you should be able to grasp my movements. Continue to feel with your magical power and presence perception as much as possible. You

will definitely become stronger than me.”

Shisho said with a laugh but those were eyes purely used to watch over the growth of a disciple.

We spent most of our time from the time we wake up to the time we sleep on the 40th floor. My level increased, I became able to grasp Shisho’s movements and when the ladies team’s cooking skill gradually became better, a month was about to pass and it was finally time for Shisho and Lionel to fight.

Furthermore, it was an all-out battle including attacks to the vitals. Since it would be bad if either of their weapons got destroyed, I lent them the stock weapons I had.

They agreed to the condition that the mock battle would be stopped when either of their weapons breaks.

“It will be a draw if your weapon breaks even when you are dominating. Moreover, I don’t think I will be able to memorize your movements just by watching today or even if I watched countless times so both of you, please don’t lose.”

“At least support your mentor if you’re a disciple.”

“It’s the duty of the lord to support his retainer.”

“「Area Barrier」. Very well, please show me a battle between the real Whirlwind and Sen’oni. Begin!!”

Shisho was the first to act upon the signal.

At a speed that I could barely register, towards Lionel who was defending with his large shield, Shisho attacked with high-speed continuous blows that validated his 'whirlwind' nickname, sending attacks to upper, middle and lower portions of the body while occasionally mixing in kicks as well.

What I could tell from those attacks was Shisho's flexibility and wide range of motion due to his well-honed core and his footwork of particularly noteworthy.

Apart from when he kicks, the sole of his feet never left the ground and he shifted his weight using just his toes and heels ... a real monster.

Although Lionel was one-sidedly on the defense, he was stopping all those flowing attacks with just the wind blades made from his sword pressure.

Furthermore, I could tell that during the times when Shisho kicked, Lionel returned with a shield bash multiple times and whenever Shisho's posture collapsed even slightly, he would instantly try to slice at Shisho's arms and feet with the straight sword he held in his right hand.

An ordinary opponent would likely not be able to withstand that pressure and their attacks would become sloppy.

Just when I had that thought,

Perhaps Lionel made a mistake but his hand that held the large shield was extended a bit too far to the right and Shisho attacked with a slash.

However, as though it was a trap, Lionel kicked his shield up, wielded his sword and slashed at Shisho with his posture broken and his other arm unexpectedly threw out sword pressure that formed into wind blades that sliced at Shisho's legs.

Shisho's left leg was immediately dyed red and he leaped backward with his other foot.

"You're good ... Sen'oni."

"Hmph. With this, it's a draw."

Now that I looked closely, Shisho's sword that I thought Lionel blocked seemed to have reached Lionel before it hit his shield as his left arm was dyed red with blood.

Lionel looked as though he almost couldn't put strength into his left arm as I could tell his arm was shaking when he raised his large shield.

Shisho was in a condition where he could barely put weight on

his left leg.

“Luciel, regarding that attack Sen’oni just used, it should be something that even you can use. Watch, feel and memorize it!”

The instant after Shisho shouted that to me, he stomped on the ground with his left foot and when he swung his sword at a high speed, I felt a wave of magical power.

Can I truly send out a flying slash too? I would be overjoyed if that is true but I did not have the time to think about it.

The next instant, more of the flying slash that was headed towards Lionel was sent over and over again.

“Don’t look down on me Whirlwind!!”

Lionel also brandished his sword in a similar fashion but those flying slashes could not be compared with Shisho’s.

Soft and rigid, light and heavy, for the flying slashes between Shisho and Lionel, Lionel outperformed Shisho.

But, when Shisho received the flying slashes with his sword, they disappeared like they were an illusion.

Then, the swords I lent to the 2 of them crumbled having served their purpose.

“This match is a draw.”

After I announced that, to be safe, I immediately healed them with 「Extra Heal」.

“Kukuku.” “Hahaha.”

Shisho and Lionel looked at each other in the face and they both began to laugh out loudly.

“That was dangerous. My attacks completely could not go through. Even when I thought I managed to slice off your arm, it didn’t fall off.”

“Same here, even though I was sure I sliced off your leg, it didn’t fall off.”

I totally could not understand why they were acting so strangely even though their attacks didn’t work but they both had refreshed faces.

“As long as we have Luciel, can’t we just go to the territory of the demons even now?”

“That’s because Luciel-sama’s Holy attribute magic has already become human race’s treasure.”

“But.” “Even so.”

“”If Luciel(-sama) enters the demon’s territory, he won’t be able to survive.””

Even if there wasn’t such a worry, I originally do not plan to go there and neither do I want to go there.

Even if I receive a direct command from Pope-sama to go, I intend to absolutely refuse.

“Even if you say it together, I have no intention of going to the demon’s territory. If I were to ever go there, it would be after I have secured my safety when the demons have been sealed and no demons would appear in the demon’s territory.”

When that happens, I’ll be able to live ... peacefully?

Despite my uneasiness, the 2 of them continued to talk about their mock battle.

“Even so, it is seriously refreshing to use my full strength.”

“It’s the same for me too. As expected, it was an excellent choice to follow Luciel-sama.”

I wanted somebody to say something to cool the heads of these 2 battle maniacs but looking at everyone else, they seemed like they

were moved by the mock battle between 2 greatest fighters in humanity so I won't be able to expect anything from them.

From that day, I studied while watching and feeling the battle between humanity's greatest, raised my level by hunting high-level monsters and the training continued for another 10 days under the guidance of Shisho and Lionel as we continued to break through the labyrinth.

Chapter 166: Everyone's Growth And Unforeseen Circumstances

I fought with various kinds of monsters, desperately struggled to the death to defeat them and my level and status rose.

I felt that I got a ton of progress but I still had a sense of unease within me.

It has been 15 days since the training where I had my eyes crushed and it has been 40 days since we came to this Labyrinth of Traps.

Even though I should be growing stronger, I could not dispel the feeling that I was regressing.

I felt like I could fight more skillfully and accurately in the past as my core balance had become worse and my range of motions had become more limited too, possibly due to it being an adverse effect of leveling up too quickly. Above all else, my sword play was a mess.

This symptom began to appear when my Magical Power and Presence Perception skills reached Level V without me noticing.

Since I would have troubled the fighters beside me if I was a vanguard, I was seriously glad that I am a Healer.

Whenever I have mock battles with Shisho, I always get disheartened with my weak techniques.

If I liken Shisho and myself to a high altitude mountain, I would be at the foot of the mountain while he's at the peak.

I am climbing with the peak as my goal but even if I am chasing after Shisho's back, Shisho is already at the mountain peak so I can't even see him.

Everyone was telling me that I have become stronger but that was because my status and my sword technique, (magic) manipulation technique, and Taijutsu skill levels just rose as well so it's not because of the training.

Well, this is also my fate due to my choice to be a Healer so even though it's mortifying, I will just continue working hard.

For self-defence martial arts for the sake of survival, leaving Shisho and Lionel's strength of another dimension aside, it should be achievable by investing time into it.

Although Shisho isn't one of my followers, with everyone else around, most incidents would generally pass without any problems.

I feel that by creating an environment that is conducive to a peaceful life, forming a family, building a village or town that my followers and said family can live in with peace of mind and

gradually developing the place, I will be able to stand proud that I did my best with my life including my previous life.

I was working hard for that sake.

Even if I clear through this Labyrinth of Traps and learn attack magic at the Independent Magic City Nelldal, I will not go near the Elimasia Empire and the Principality of Blange. The Rubruk Kingdom is currently at war with the Elimasia Empire so even if I intend to visit the kingdom, I'll only do so after the war has settled down.

It might be a good idea to head to Rockford before returning to the Church and pass Dolan and the others the magic stones I obtained this round ... all that comes after we clear this labyrinth though.

“All right.”

After consolidating everything in my mind, I hit my face to raise my spirit and got up to begin preparing breakfast.

Everyone woke up in order and after we finished our meal as usual, Shisho spoke up.

“We will clear this labyrinth today but everyone has become very much stronger. Have confidence in yourself. If Sen’oni’s words are true, you guys can probably easily win against the Church Headquarters’ Paladin squads. But, carelessness is prohibited. I

might be contradicting myself but anything can happen during a battle. Even if an abnormal situation occurs, you will be fine as long as you handle it calmly. Trust your companions and let's clear this labyrinth."

""""Ha!""""

Everyone's senses were aligned and we achieved a satisfying start.

However, the labyrinth's irregularity started immediately.

There were monsters in the labyrinth.

It might seem natural but why would they appear when they normally don't? That question floated in my mind.

Even so, since we plan to clear the labyrinth, I only focused on the traps and advanced but I was bothered by one point.

"About the monsters that are appearing in this labyrinth, it's a labyrinth with the Lightning Dragon so I thought that monsters with a lightning attribute or the opposing attribute would appear but it's a chaotic mix without any set rules and I feel like the monsters aren't that strong either."

I couldn't say that the monsters appearing were weak.

There were intimidating monsters like ogres and minotaurs that would normally be a threat but after fighting with a Chimera and Cyclops, these monsters no longer have that much impact, furthermore, they just charged at us without thinking and we just let them activate the traps themselves and self-destruct.

There was a wealth of variety like fire-breathing crocodile-like monsters and acid-spitting big frogs but they were sent flying by Shisho's slashes so they didn't touch me at all.

"That's true. Moreover, it's strange that they don't drop magic stones. These monsters might actually be summoned monsters."

"Summoned? This staggering amount?"

"Magic stones, blood and magical power are needed as compensation for summoning but it is possible to summon with only magic stones. Well, it would be completely impossible to control them so it can probably only be used to buy time."

"... Is it that slave merchant? He seemed capable of summoning."

"There's no way to tell but I have no idea what's this person's intention for summoning these monsters."

"... Is leveling his own level and the level of the monsters he uses unthinkable?"

“Only a person with a broken mind would make the monsters he summon fight among themselves. It’s even worse than playing with dolls.”

Shisho says that but the fact that they are being summoned means that there is the possibility that the person’s skill level is rising.

But, I suddenly thought of it. For a period of over a month, we spent our time at the 40th-floor boss room but the slave merchant did not pass through.

Taking that into consideration, he shouldn’t be able to survive that long assuming he doesn’t have a magic bag so it’s highly possible that he’s somewhere outside.

“It might be useless even if we think about it.”

“Yeah. After this ends, I’ll return to Meratoni and Luciel will learn magic right?”

“I’ll strive to give Shisho a shock.”

I said and laughed.

There were many heinous traps in the Labyrinth of Traps and there were many that were hard to disarm.

At those times, monsters would get caught in the traps before us so it felt to me that Great Luck-sensei was showing itself after a long time.

Then, we arrived in front of the 50th-floor boss room but the door was shut and I could not hear any sounds coming from inside.

“Do I open this door?”

Since it's possible that it might become a Blue, Red and Yellow Dragon festival if either Shisho or Lionel open the final boss room.

Shisho felt that it would be interesting when I told him that but he reluctantly complied and gave up when everyone joined together against the idea.

After I applied 「Area Barrier」 on everyone and entered the boss room after opening the door, I saw a human figure standing there alone.

However, that presence was extraordinary and unlike before, I even felt a sense of fear.

The human figure was the slave merchant.

“Oh? The whimsical people who came to clear this labyrinth were you guys?”

“Slave merchant, did you clear this labyrinth on your own?”

“I have a name you know, Brad. I will summon a monster that I can call as my kin with this blood.”

It felt to me like the slave merchant named Brad was slightly tripping (neurotic) but he didn't seem to have touched the labyrinth core.

But there was something I was uneasy about.

“What happened to the returning magic circle? Isn't it strange that the magic circle hasn't appeared considering that the boss was defeated!?”

“Since I've enslaved it, it doesn't seem like it's considered to have been defeated. Well then, we finally had the chance to meet but I will be shattering your dreams and use those sisters as material to slaughter the Principality of Blange.”

After Brad's declaration, magic circles rose up from every magical point.

Isn't enslaving the boss way too out of the norm?

The instant I tsukkomi-ed in my heart, a high-speed slash was sent flying towards Brad.

Brad caught sight of it all and the slash did not reach him but the enormous ogre that appeared from the magic circle a step ahead of Brad was sliced apart.

However, the mental damage inflicted on Brad was huge.

“Mo, monster! Your level at that time was abnormally high but you shouldn’t be this strong!!”

Without giving him a reply, Shisho, Cathy and Kefin paired, as well as Estia and Nadia paired crushed the monsters appearing from the magic circles one after the other, Lionel protected me and Lydia with his large shield as he sent balls of flame and slashes flying while Lydia attacked with Spirit Magic.

I precisely cast heal while giving support by casting spells depending on the combat situation, 「Aura Coat」 when they fought against monsters that leaked miasma or 「Recover」 when against monsters that seem to have poison and paralysis.

“Im, impossible, how did your levels rise so suddenly. Exactly what kind of cheat did you use. Shit, damn it, you piles of shit!!”

Looking as if he could not believe the monsters he held confidence in disappear one after the other, Brad retreated backward.

Then, he lost his temper when it didn’t go as he desired.

He took out and scattered a large amount of magic stones on the floor, cut his palm with a sword to drip blood onto the magic stones and began constructing a huge magic circle.

Similarly, I intended to crush the magic circle with 「Sanctuary Circle」 but Lionel motioned me to wait.

“Luciel-sama, the return magic circle has not appeared yet so the one that will emerge now will probably be the original boss. If that’s the case, let’s slice them up including that summoner there once the summoning is complete.”

I listened to Lionel and looked at Shisho before agreeing with his judgment.

“All right. Hold fast.”

“Yes!”

The moment the magic circle’s construction was complete, all the other monsters disappeared.

Then, from the huge magic circle that gathered everyone’s gaze, a Chimera appeared.

Brad’s complexion was extremely bad as if he was on the verge of magical power depletion but he laughed at us who did not react to the Chimera.

“Hahaha. How’s this!! This Chimera is my greatest trump card. Since you’ve all been seen by it, become its food and die!!”

Immediately after Brad triumphantly declared his win, the Chimera targeted Estia and Nadia and jumped towards them.

The lion face suffered in pain when the black light cast by Estia’s sword swing hit it while Nadia braced herself with her shield and thrust forward with her sword to cut its feet.

The Chimera also didn’t intend to allow her to easily approach it as the mountain goat shot an electric shock towards Nadia.

Nadia firmly blocked that with the dragon shield and succeeded in cutting its front foot.

But the Chimera did not overlook that moment of opportunity.

The poisonous snake tail pounced on Nadia as her posture was broken from attacking.

At that time, Cathy and Kefin appeared.

Cathy ran at a speed that would beat Shisho in a straight line and whacked the snake’s head with all her strength using the flat of her sword and Kefin cut off the defenseless freefalling snake.

The lion with its face covered in darkness tried to release a flame breath but Estia was one step faster in stabbing the lion's mouth with her sword.

Even though the mountain goat knew that the snake was chopped off and the lion was wounded, it could not tolerate its prided electric attack not causing any damage so it relentlessly rained electric attacks on Nadia.

Cathy and Kefin sliced at the rear legs to break its balance, swords pierced the body of the Chimera and with attacks on the mountain goat head, the Chimera raised its death throes and collapsed.

Without acting carelessly, the mountain goat's head was chopped off and it was a complete victory against the Chimera.

"Im, impossible. That's a Chimera? An A-rank upper tier monster ... how?"

Brad could not comprehend the reality as he trembled and muttered while staring at the 4 people who defeated the Chimera.

""""It's because we spent all of our time from morning to night training in an environment where strong monsters appear with an excellent mentor and an excellent healer (nya).""""

When the 4 of them declared in sync, the Chimera disappeared, leaving a magic stone but the returning magic circle appeared and

swallowed the 4 of them at the same time.

“Ah.”

Even we did not expect the magic circle to suddenly encompass Kefin and the others.

What was more unexpected was the appearance of the labyrinth's nucleus in front of Brad.

I don't know if it was Great Luck-sensei working behind the scenes to distance me from that evil source or that it was abandoning its duty but I shouted when I came to my senses.

“Withdraw!!”

We ran towards the magic circle and Shisho tried to kill Brad before he touched the labyrinth nucleus with a flying slash but the slash was hindered by something.

Then, just as we were about to reach the magic circle in just a few more steps, the magic circle disappeared.

Chapter 167: Unreasonable Overturn

Brad who was grasping the labyrinth core looked like he could not believe how he was still alive even after receiving Shisho's slash.

He checked his body again and again and seemed overjoyed knowing that he's still alive but he didn't move or make any sound.

Perhaps he thought as though he was revived.

Either way, now was not the time to bother about Brad.

“Shisho, come here quickly.”

While drinking high-grade magical power potions, I confirmed that Shisho also entered the range of my spell and I began chanting.

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, using my magical power as sustenance, like the wings of an angel, create a sanctuary that sears all evil and become a shield that repels all impurities. Sanctuary Barrier.】

With a release of pale light, a game-like hemisphere spread out with me as the center.

It was my trump card against the Evil God.

If only that core wasn't here, we would have cleared without any problems ... but it's more important to think about how to survive rather than brood on what has happened.

“Luciel, what is this hemisphere and the mirrors spinning around it?”

“This is my original barrier magic that I created by applying Sanctuary Circle so I call it Sanctuary Barrier. Please think of the rotating shields as an indicator of the durability of this barrier.”

I wanted to describe the greatness of this spell but since there wasn't any time, I could only explain it later.

“To think that he would grab that core that is producing this amount of miasma, is that guy even sane?”

“Isn't it because his consciousness has already mostly been taken over?”

Lionel and Shisho joked with each other but their foreheads were glistening with sweat.

Lionel's forehead glistened with sweat once similar to this time when we fought with the Red Dragon but I had never ever seen Shisho's forehead glisten with sweat.

“The Spirits are frightened but ... we’ll be able to leave here right? I’ll be able to meet onee-sama once again right?”

“Please pray for that to happen. And if possible, I want you to support me.”

There should be a reason to why Lydia was left behind with us.

Would it be possible for her to call spirits or gods? It wasn’t a situation where I could joke around so I patiently maintained vigilance on Brad.

“《Hahaha, I feel great. I feel the overflowing power. You guys were looking down on me just now right?》”

Brad began approaching us and spoke but I could hear 2 overlapping voices.

It sounded as though it was telepathic communication, maybe he inserted magical power into his voice.

“Did it look like we were looking down on you?”

As I conversed with Brad, Shisho and the others measured the timing to attack him.

“《Your eyes resembled those nobles from that rotten Principality

of Blange. I'm a reincarnated individual. Since I possessed Appraisal from the beginning, I was able to become a Merchant and because only slimes, goblins and horned rabbits appeared near the town, I defeated them, leveled up and acquired skills, it was seriously enjoyable.》”

“It was enjoyable right? Then why did you entrap other people?”

Even while his own body was burning within the Sanctuary Barrier, Brad continued talking without showing any signs of pain.

The sense of pain was probably lost completely once a person turned into undead.

“《Some dim-witted noble's son kidnapped my sworn future lover, played with her and murdered her in the end. What do you think was his purpose? His only reason was because he was curious as it looked enjoyable to do it with commoners.》”

” You have my pity. Even I would not forgive that noble. But what you are doing now is the same as that noble.”

Springing a trap on them and turning them into slaves when he failed to kill them, kidnapping and attempted murder are indisputable crimes.

“《At that time, I was enlightened. That this world is one where the strong preys on the weak.》”

The words I threw at Brad could no longer reach him.

“Luciel, it seems like that guy has already gone insane.”

“Evidently he’s already seeing hallucinations.”

Brad ignored the Sanctuary Barrier and continued walking without stopping as his body burned so his body had finally begun to melt but he showed no intention of stopping.

However, a moment later, perhaps he knew that he could not advance up to a certain distance, he held the labyrinth core up high and declared.

“《You wish to stop me? I will never stop until I get my revenge for Mina. I will scatter all who block my way into nothingness. [Using my body, my blood and my magical power as sustenance, violence that can turn everything to nothing, manifest]》.”

The next instant, the location Brad was at exploded and he was wrapped in a blackish purple smoke.

Then, from within the blackish purple smoke, I sensed a tremendous intimidating aura swell greater and greater.

“Oi oi, I’m sensing some unusual pressure from that smoke.”

The sweat on Shisho’s forehead was reaching an amazing

amount.

“Luciel-sama, are you able to cast Sanctuary Circle while maintaining this spell?”

Lionel asked me and since I’d like to survive, I’ll also do everything in my power.

“I’d like to live so I’ll give it a try. 【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, by my wish use my magical power as sustenance, like wings of light, using a shield of purification, create a sanctuary that sears everything wicked and impure. Sanctuary Circle.】”

The pale light engulfed the smoke and it swallowed it all up.

The instant I registered that, a crack appeared on Sanctuary Circle and at the same time it shattered, I finally met the manifestation of the Evil God that I had never ever wanted to see.

[His appearance](#) leaned towards the features of the demon race but he closely resembled humans.

(TL: There’s no identifier as to whether the Evil God is a male or female. I’ll continue identifying the Evil God as a guy until stated otherwise.)

《How rude, attacking all of the sudden.》

His figure resembled that of a human but just by listening to his voice, even with my Mental Resistance at level X, I could feel an intimidating force that caused goosebumps all over my body while Lydia who didn't have any resistance ended up falling to a sitting position and trembled.

I was also bothered by how his appearance belied his identity as the Evil God.

“I apologize so could you let us leave? Although I don't think Chief God Kuraiya will permit you to continue manifesting yourself indefinitely ... ”

《What sharp words. You are quite capable to be able to clear this labyrinth with a human's body. Seeing that you all are not turning into undead while standing next to the labyrinth core ... perhaps you people are [labyrinth disrupters](#)?》

(TL: It's a new term but I'm guessing labyrinth disrupters/robbers/vandalisers = People like Luciel who go in to clear the labyrinth and kill the final boss to lower the activity of the labyrinth but don't touch the labyrinth core.)

How did he find out? But it didn't look like he would let us go if I acknowledged his question so I tried my best to lie as naturally as possible.

“What are you talking about? We were merely chasing after that person who exploded just now?”

《Kukuku. Even though I'm called the Evil God, as a god,

deception will not work on me. I'll have to give out punishment.》

I retorted in my mind ‘Then don’t ask in the first place!’ as I maintained my barrier.

Just as I had that thought, the Evil God stretched his hand out and swung his hand from left to right.

That was all he did.

Even so, the Sanctuary Barrier shook and the rotating shields shattered one after the other and a crack appeared on the barrier too.

“【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, using my magical power as sustenance, like the wings of an angel, create a sanctuary that sears all evil and become a shield that repels all impurities. Sanctuary Barrier.】

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, using my magical power as sustenance, like the wings of an angel, create a sanctuary that sears all evil and become a shield that repels all impurities. Sanctuary Barrier.】

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, using my magical power as sustenance, like the wings of an angel, create a sanctuary that sears all evil and become a shield that repels all impurities. Sanctuary Barrier.】”

I somehow managed to cast 3 Sanctuary Barriers and we somehow survived.

《Ooh. Well aren't you quite capable?》

“Thank you. And that's right. Please return if you've had your fill.”

I really wanted him to return. Kuraiya-sama, Holy God of Healing-sama, Ancestor-sama, the Evil God is here.

Please quickly come help us.

As I desperately prayed for him to return, I started a conversation to buy time.

《Kukuku. You're a funny guy.》

“It's not funny at all. Why have I been dragged into the battle between the hero and the demon lord? The reincarnation dragons and spirits are nuisances too! Don't get ordinary people involved any further.”

《Would you not mind even if the demon race dominated this world?》

I'll just try doing it since I've never done it before.

I'll end up misinterpreting him if he says it with such a light mood.

And I ended up comprehending what he was saying.

It's surely a simple reason. As a being that reigns in the highest position on the ecological pyramid, he just cannot suppress his strong curiosity. Or rather, he just doesn't wish to suppress it.

I'm able to do it so I did it. That's probably all there's to it.

No matter how much I try to convince such a being, his train of thought on how enjoyable a future where the demon race dominates would be would definitely not change and he will probably continue on that path.

"I do not know what kind of race the demon race is but if their individual ability is superior to that of humans and beastmen, I would probably not be able to enjoy a peaceful life. I'm begging you please go back."

《Fumu. I like how you speak your true feelings. Become my pawn by turning into undead and see the world.》

Oh crap. It's the time where the Evil God exhibits his power.

"I won't let you." "Perish."

Shisho and Lionel attacked with full power slashes.

But the slashes were repelled by an invisible wall 30cm in front of him.

Even so, the 2 of them continued releasing slashes.

I was thankful for that as I channeled magical power to strengthen the Sanctuary Barrier.

《Fumu. It's interesting how you all continue even while knowing that your attacks are meaningless against me.》

“If so, then if we give you even the slightest of injury, give up and return.”

“For the sake of protecting our disciple, we will slice through even the wall of a god.”

《Slice through and injure me? Kuwahahaha. Very well. I will turn you 2 into undead first.》

The Evil God seriously laughed out loud and he probably intended to play with the 2 of them like toys.

“Shisho, Lionel, even if the opponent is human-shaped, he's a god.”

The 2 of them laughed at my words.

They probably moved knowing full well that the opponent is a god.

That's exactly why Shisho and Lionel attacked.

They most likely could only see a future where we were annihilated if it continued ...

Even so ... when I thought that, Shisho called out to me.

“Luciel, I'll tell you since it might be the end. No matter how painful it is, it will be the end once you give up. Even if you have to flounder in the mud, you might see the light if you continue. That is what I've taught you.”

“But Shisho, if we buy time, there's a chance that Chief God Kuraiya will come to help us.”

“Luciel, the Evil God is still a god, do you think he has not taken that possibility into consideration? Well, this is where you leave it to your teacher.”

“Shisho ...”

His back looked amazingly large but I could only see the future where Shisho ended up dying.

Then, Lionel who stands shoulder to shoulder with Shisho also conveyed his gratitude to me while smiling.

“Luciel-sama, I’ve come to see this world in a new light after I met you. That’s not just limited to me but to many others as well. I will dedicate my body even until it turns into old bones if it is to save a person like you.”

“Lionel, you chose to remain as a slave because you still have something you have to settle right? Moreover, you have to think of Naria too.”

“Naria understands me. Furthermore, I remained as a slave to avenge my personal grudge. But the days I spent together with you saved me from the narrow heart I imprisoned myself in where I wished for revenge. Also, it is the duty of the retainer to take action for the sake of their owner.”

“Lionel ... ”

The 2 of them were prepared to die.

They intend to save my life even at the cost of burning their own life.

How do I end this without letting the 2 of them die? What can I do?

《Have you finished saying your farewells? Then, come at me.》

I could hear a tinge of laughter in the Evil God's words.

That infuriated me and either way I would die if we do not overcome this predicament so I ceased being frightened.

“Evil God, seriously just give up and return. I will not allow anybody to turn into undead as long as I am around.”

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, by my wish use my magical power as sustenance, with the wings of an angel, protect us from all impurities, create and impart an armor that creates a sanctuary. Sanctuary Armor.】

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, by my wish use my magical power as sustenance, with the wings of an angel, protect us from all impurities, create and impart an armor that creates a sanctuary. Sanctuary Armor.】

I cast my second trump card, Sanctuary Armor, on both Shisho and Lionel.

I only succeeded in creating this spell just a couple of days ago.

“Shisho, Lionel, I'll definitely not allow you 2 to die so beat him up as soon as possible and make him retreat.”

“”Yeah!””

“Whirlwind Broad, here I come!”

“Sen’oni Lionel, here I come!”

The 2 of them went full throttle from the get-go, charged out of the Sanctuary Barrier and attacked the Evil God but the attacks all hit an invisible wall and were stopped.

However, the attacks didn’t happen only once or twice, the 2 of them continued attacking while cooperating.

The Evil God also retaliated but they evaded all of his attacks and counter attacked.

《It’s been a long time since I fought with humans. You guys are slightly weak. I’ll gradually increase the speed of my attacks so be careful as you’ll turn into undead if it hits.》

The Evil God said that and laughed.

However, thanks to him holding back until now, I understood why he stopped talking.

That invisible wall was miasma.

He's made it invisible but the instant where it stops an attack I could faintly see the purple smoke.

I don't know if that was a hint given by the Evil God, that it was a trap or that I did not have a correct assessment of the situation but I decided to bet on it.

It's a chance gained from the countless times Shisho and Lionel attacked and evaded attacks.

To reward their effort, I cast Sanctuary Circle with No Chant while matching the timing when the 2 of them crossed the Evil God.

The result was ... faint but definite wounds appeared on both arms of the Evil God.

《Fumu. That was quite enjoyable. To continually endure my attacks with such weak bodies ... I will keep my promise in light of these 2. Farewell. Labyrinth disrupters. 》

I was worried after hearing those words and looked at the 2 of them but it didn't seem like anything was wrong with them.

“I don't ever want to meet him again so let's go back. Where's the returning magic circle?”

When the Evil God tossed the labyrinth core, he announced the condition for the returning magic circle to appear immediately

before he disappeared.

《You all will be able to exit the labyrinth when there are no undead present.》

“What did he mean? Lydia, are you alright?”

“So, somehow. So, sorry for not being of use.”

I left Lydia who looked like she was about to cry alone for now.

“Shisho, Lionel, you 2 were seriously amazing. The 2 of you ... what?!”

When I spoke to the 2 of them, the 2 of them smiled happily and their bodies crumbled.

The Sanctuary Armor on the 2 of them shattered and scattered in pieces.

” ... Without this (Sanctuary Armor) ... we wouldn't have been able to ... save you ... I don't know ... what master I am but ... I'm glad ... that you are safe ... ”

” ... I'm glad that ... I could fulfill my duty ... as a retainer.”

The 2 of them had peaceful expressions as they began accepting

their death.

“I’ll immediately heal you ...!!”

Wiping off the tears that unexpectedly began spilling out from my eyes, I desperately thought of ways to save them.

“Sorry but ... I’ve already turned half ... into undead. At the very least ... please receive ... the experience points for killing me.”

“Before ... our consciousness ... falls into .. darkness.”

Miasma slowly began to leak slightly from both their bodies.

The undead process would probably rapidly advance from here on out.

Is it really fine to let this happen?

Humans will die eventually.

But, can such an unreasonable death be permitted? I was irritated at the Chief God for not dealing with the evil doings of the Evil God.

Till today, I’ve purified all the ones who were turned into undead by the Evil God to save my own life but I intend to save ones who I

am acquainted with?

I could hear various voices but my answer was unexpectedly simple.

“If my ordinary life was reincarnated into this world, it’s probably meant to save these 2 people. Going by that thought, I’ll take a bet here. Furthermore, it’s not like it is certain that I will die from it.”

I stood up and began drinking high-grade magical power potion one after the other.

“Do the both of you know? (glug, glug, glug) The undead gives very little experience points. (glug, glug, glug) What would happen to my peace if Shisho and my strongest retainer die at the same time? Please think of it a little before saying your farewells.”

I opened my status page and began operating my SP.

“Shisho, in the past Shisho didn’t lie. I never thought that the day will come where I have a proper reason to use the SP I’ve accumulated.”

I consumed SP from my status page and spent 200P to acquire the Limit Break skill and 100P to acquire [Supreme Luck](#).

(TL: Translated as Absolute Luck in the prologue, it’s 1 tier below Heaven’s Luck which costs 500P)

Limit Break was explained as a skill to exceed one's own limits while the demerit was that the recoil from the actions that go over one's limit was doubled.

Great Luck-sensei was unreliable in this time's incident so I had Supreme Luck-sensei step in.

I was taking a bet so I wanted to depend on luck.

“Lydia, please hold on to these.”

I tossed a bag with the 2 Hermit Keys and small piles of white gold and gold coins to Lydia.

“Please place me in the coffin if I lose consciousness. Also, if you run out of living expenses please work out a solution with that.”

I smiled to Lydia after saying that and while I didn't hear her reply, I then smiled as I looked at Shisho and Lionel before explaining from the top.

“I will have the 2 of you pass away for a time. It would probably be so painful that you wish to die but I still have plenty of stuff to learn from the 2 of you and I still wish to laugh and train under you 2 so please prepare yourselves.”

I slapped my face and took in one deep breath before silently began chanting.

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, by my wish use my magical power as sustenance, like wings of light, using a shield of purification, create a sanctuary that sears everything wicked and impure. Sanctuary Circle.】

Firstly, I would be troubled if they remain as undead so I cast Sanctuary Circle first.

Moreover, to prevent them from completely disappearing, I continually cast Extra Heal.

【【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, by my wish using my magical power as sustenance, become the breath of an angel, restore him to the form he should originally have, I pray to the mysteries of life. Extra Heal.】】

Then, before their souls rose to the skies, I tried calling back and grabbing hold of their souls.

Even if it's a magic designated as prohibited, if it's a fate that was unreasonably plucked by the Evil God's intervention, it should be alright if I overturn that unreasonable fate right?

【【Holy God who governs healing, God who governs fate, by the ancient pledge, for one who's fate has originally decayed, for one who has originally been called back to the wheel of reincarnation, using my magical power as sustenance, I pray in the name of kindness for the re-connection of thread that spins the future for their original life, I bid for the judgment of the gods. Revive.】】

Unlike the usual pale light, golden light descended onto Shisho and Lionel.

Ascertaining that with my own eyes, I sighed a sigh of relief. At that instant, my heartbeat intensified as if my heart was about to rupture and I was on the verge of losing consciousness. However, their bodies had not completely regenerated yet.

I gritted my teeth and felt something warm flow from my nose and ears but I gathered strength into my feet and stomped down to channel in magical power.

Then, somehow, their bodies completely regenerated and after ascertaining that the golden light had stopped shining, I finally lost consciousness.

Chapter 168: Compensation For The Forbidden Art And Hereafter

In a world where there was only darkness, I could not move my body at all but the 『Dokun, Dokun』 sounds of heartbeat taught me that I was alive.

Even though I could not move my body, my mind could still function and my magical power had completely recovered without me noticing but I was in a puzzling condition where I could not use Healing Magic.

One possibility I could think of was that by using the forbidden magic Revival in combination with other magic and in addition, chanting them multiple times, I might have pushed myself too far beyond my limit.

For a forbidden technique that can only be performed in exchange for a life just by casting it once, I cast it twice at the same time.

It won't be strange if something happened depending on the decision of the gods.

I had no choice but to begin searching with presence and magical power perception but I could only sense my own magical power and presence so I was beginning to wonder if I was truly alive.

In that pitch black world, dazzling strong lights that were even

more intense than the sun descended down.

Then, voices resounded in my head.

《Traveller from another world who traveled through space and time, thou activated the forbidden art with a human body.》

《Usually, it would be something that can never be forgiven.》

《It is, however, also a fact that it was caused by an interference from the Evil God.》

《This round, there will be no punishment.》

《However, thy body will likely pay the price for the forbidden art.》

《Recipient of my ... the Holy Healing God's Blessing, I look forward to the time thou becomes a saint once again and return to healing.》

《《《《《Awaken.》》》》》》

Voices resounded in my head in order but I forgot to reply due to the overwhelming sense of divinity.

When I heard the last voice, I felt myself get pulled up into the

sky at the same time the gathered lights engulfed the darkness.

It felt as if I was being gently hugged by something.

Then, the light caused the blood in my petrified body to flow once again and I could feel the shackles on my body unravel with the warmth.

After confirming that the dazzling lights had subsided, I slowly opened my eyes and I was greeted by darkness once again.

“What the heck!!”

The instant I tsukkomi-ed, I felt my hand knock into something and I heard a rattling noise.

“?! ... Am I inside a coffin?”

I attempted to slowly push against the part I was touching.

When I did so, the one-side opening coffin slowly opened and I appeared in a pure white space.

“This place is?”

Upon exiting the coffin, a door appeared beside the coffin.

” ... It seems like I am inside the Hermit’s Coffin. So Lydia did properly follow my instruction to put me into the coffin.”

While thanking Lydia in my mind, I checked my status before leaving the room as there was something on my mind.

I couldn’t help but feel uneasy about the Holy Healing God’s words.

Name: Luciel LV: 193 (91↑)

Job: (Healer X) HP: 7290 (4270↑)

Faith Dragon Knight III (Four Attribute Dragon Knight) MP: 5270 (2660↑)

Age: 21

STR: 850 (484↑) INT: 961 (539↑)

VIT: 932 (543↑) MGI: 959 (499↑)

DEX: 801 (450↑) RMG: 954 (500↑)

AGI: 825 (456↑) SP: 86 (119↓)

【Skills】

「Proficiency Appraisal－」「Great luck－」

「Supreme Luck －」「Limit Break －」

「Taijutsu VI」「Sword Mastery V」

「Spear Mastery IV」「Shield Mastery IV」

「Archery I」「Twin Spear Sword Technique IV」

「Throwing VI」(1↑)「Footwork VIII」(2↑)

「Magical Power Manipulation X」 「Magical Power Control X」
「Magical Power Amplification III」 「Body Strengthening VI」
(4↑)
「Chant Shortening IX」(2↑) 「Chant Termination VII」(2↑)
「No Chant IV」(2↑) 「Magic Circle Chant VI」(2↑)
「Multiple Chant III」 (「Holy Magic X」)
「Meditation IX」(1↑) 「Concentration IX」
「Leadership III」 「Danger Perception VIII」(3↑)
「Presence Perception V」 「Magical Power Perception V」
「Search for Enemy I」 「Dismantling IV」(2↑)
「Horse Riding III」
「Parallel Thinking VII」(2↑) 「Thought Acceleration III」
「Spatial Awareness II」
「Trap Sensing IV」(2↑) 「Trap Detection III」(2↑)
「Trap Disarming III」 「Cartography V」(1↑)
「HP Recovery IX」(1↑) 「MP Recovery IX」
「HP Increased Rate of Growth IX」 「MP Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「STR Increased Rate of Growth IX」 「VIT Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「DEX Increased Rate of Growth IX」 「AGI Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「INT Increased Rate of Growth IX」 「MGI Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「RMG Increased Rate of Growth IX」 「Physical Ability Increased Rate of Growth VI」(1↑)
「Poison Resistance IX」 「Weakness Resistance IX」

「Paralysis Resistance IX」 「Magic Seal Resistance IX」
「Petrification Resistance IX」 「Disease Resistance IX」
「Sleep Resistance IX」 「Blunt Damage Resistance VII」(1↑)
「Charm Resistance VII」(2↑) 「Bewitch Resistance IX」(2↑)
「Curse Resistance IX」 「Mental Resistance X」(1↑)
「Slash Resistance IX」(2↑) 「Pierce Resistance VII」(2↑)
「Intimidation Resistance V」

【Titles】

「One who changed their destiny」 All status +10

「God of Destiny's divine protection」 Increased SP acquisition

「Holy Healing God's blessing」 Potency of Holy attribute healing magic increased by 1.5 times

「Divine protection from many Dragons」 Strengthened Holy, Flame, Earth, Lightning offensive and defensive attributes.

Rise in combat skills and status.

It is now possible to converse with the dragon race

「Divine protection from many Spirits」 Strengthened Water, Earth, Fire, Light, Darkness offensive and defensive attributes.

Grant and support of attributes.

「Dragon (Oriental Dragon龍) Slaughter」 Proof of having slain more than one dragon. Strengthened offense and defense against dragons 龍 and their kin

「Dragon race (Japanese Dragon竜) Slayer」 Strengthened offense and defense against dragons竜

「Giant Slayer」 Strengthened offense and defense against giants

「Magical beast Slayer」 Strengthened offense and defense

against magical beasts

「One who repelled the Evil God」 Against the demon race and monsters (TL: That's all the author wrote ...)

「One who unleashed the seal」 Immune to the curse of the evil god.

Capable of acquiring the power of the sealed dragons

「One guided by the Dragon God」 Relationship with the Dragon race and those who follow the dragons strengthens

I could see the status screen that appeared with its usual white letters but 2 of the items were displayed in gray, as if indicating that those abilities were lost.

” ... It was Shisho and Lionel who repelled the Evil God but the main problem is the grayed out Healer and Holy Attribute Magic ... 「Heal」.”

I invoked heal as usual but it completely did not activate and neither did I sense the consumption of magical power.

I tried using Proficiency Appraisal to check on the proficiency of the skill but because the experience value was not displayed after a skill had reached X, there wasn't any meaning in doing so.

” ... It won't be funny if Shisho and Lionel are still dead after all this but if they are alive ...”

As expected, knowing that I can no longer use Holy Attribute Magic, I can't say that I had a steel spirit did not waver.

Since I don't have such a thing in the first place.

Nevertheless, I believed in the words of the Holy Healing God and vowed to one day regain my Holy Attribute magic as I opened the door while praying that Shisho and Lionel were still alive.

Then, Shisho and Lionel flew into my vision as well as the figures of all my retainers.

"You're finally awake, Luciel."

"Luciel-sama, thank you for waking up."

With Shisho and Lionel lined up, I thanked the gods for them being alive.

However, there was something that bothered me ...

"So the 2 of you were revived ... I'm so glad. So, have the 2 of you become a little younger?"

"... You are seriously reckless."

Shisho held his eyes as he turned his face away.

“You did not wake up even after 10 days after that incident so we were worried. It’s true that my body has become considerably more youthful.”

Ten days huh ... so that’s why I don’t feel the awful feeling of magical power depletion.

Nevertheless, for it to have a rejuvenating effect, the forbidden art sure has some amazing benefits.

“That seems like an additional effect. Even so, did the 2 of you wake up immediately?”

The ones who answered were my retainers who were watching from the side.

“The 2 of them regained consciousness 3 days ago nya.”

Cathy raised her voice.

“Because our slave crest was suddenly dispelled, Cathy and I were fearful that Luciel-sama had passed away.”

Kefin brought his worried face closer to mine as he said that.

“Kefin, your face is too close!! Dispelled slave crest ... that means I also died once? Now that I think about it, where’s this place?”

“It’s the capital of Grandol, a high-class inn I stayed at before. I was told that here, as long as you pay money, information would not be leaked out.”

Estia answered but what about the money required to stay in a high-class inn for this many days?

“We were able to stay here using the money you entrusted to Lydia.”

Nadia told me, perhaps because my expression showed my doubts about the money.

Just as I was about to thank Lydia, Lydia trembled and burst into tears.

Since she unexpectedly began crying, I was slightly perplexed as I asked.

” ... What’s wrong Lydia? We were saved thanks to Lydia. I wish to properly convey my thanks.”

I told her my intent to thank her but she shook her head side to side and answered with a quiet voice.

“At that time, all I could do was tremble. I could only look at Luciel-sama, Broad-sama and Lionel-sama fight desperately.”

Well, she would have probably been killed if she jumped into action then.

I had no thoughts of complaining as she had the bravery to not do anything and helped place us in the Hermit's Coffin after everything had ended.

“Lydia, we are alive right now precisely because you save us by placing us in the Hermit's Coffin. You are the benefactor of the 3 of us. I am truly grateful. Thank you.”

I lowered my head to Lydia.

After that, not only me but Shisho and Lionel also lowered their heads, causing Lydia to be even more flustered and cry even harder as Nadia gently hugged her until she stopped.

Then, Shisho and Lionel confronted me with the main topic.

“Luciel, you exercised a magic of that scale so naturally, there are adverse effects right?”

“For Whirlwind and I, our bodies and job levels returned to 1 and all the skills we have trained until now have disappeared.”

It looks like the resurrection magic in this world is a lot harsher than I had imagined.

The 2 of them casually spoke about their losses.

” ... What remains is our knowledge and experience. Well, I was surprised that I’ve somehow become younger.”

Shisho gave off a mischievous air that he normally doesn’t emit to soften the heavy atmosphere but thinking about it once again, what that the 2 of them lost was tremendous.

Even so, it is probably a fact that they are truly happy for being alive.

And I didn’t want to further douse the atmosphere but I honestly answered as I looked into Shisho’s eyes.

“I lost my Healer job and Holy Attribute Magic.”

“!! Luciel, I’m sorry.”

“Luciel-sama!!”

Shisho and Lionel’s faces turned to despair upon hearing my words and everyone also had speechless expressions.

I anticipated that everyone would make those expressions but my heart still clenched at the sight.

However, I told everyone with a smile.

“Oh well, it will work out somehow. Attribute-wise I can still sense the magical power of the Holy Attribute, it’s just that I can’t use it.”

“But you will have to throw away the position that you had painstakingly built up.”

Even if that worst case scenario happens, it will still work out somehow and I can just live in Ienith as a Merchant.

“Even if I lose my position as the S-rank Healer, I can take up the title of the director of the school in Ienith or be the chairman of Luciel Firm(tentative) so it’s all right. Moreover, I’ll definitely show you all that I will one day be able to use Holy Attribute Magic.”

” ... Is there hope to regain your ability?”

Lionel anxiously asked.

It can’t be helped that Shisho and Lionel think that it was their responsibility but I had already anticipated it.

“Yes. To tell the truth, I have thought of this possibility so I do have a few ideas.”

“If my strength would come in use, I will help with anything.”

Isn't it about time Shisho returned to Meratoni and deal with his guildmaster work?

But since there are things in the world better left unsaid, I'll tell him later if he doesn't realize it.

“Actually, previously when I met the Water Spirit in Ienith, it prophesized that I will one day fall into despair and asked me to visit it then. So I was prepared for it in advance.”

” ... Are there any strategies to break through this predicament?”

I felt as if Shisho was more worried about me than I was.

His expression was as if he was clutching at straws.

“There are 3 methods for me to be able to use Holy Attribute Magic. One method would be to let Pope-sama change my job. If it goes well, I might be able to become a Paladin or a Sage so there's a possibility that I will be able to use Holy Attribute Magic that way.”

“Job!? I see! Luciel would be acquainted with the Pope after all.”

Shisho was getting excited.

I believe that is the easiest method.

But I wondered if that much was enough to overcome the despair the Water Spirit spoke of.

“Yes. Pope-sama would likely assist me. Even if Pope-sama can’t change my job, I can go to Nelldal to get the Wind Spirit’s Blessing and once I acquired the blessings of all 6 attributes from the spirits, I pray that my job will automatically change.”

“If it’s a bet, Luciel-sama is absurdly strong so it would likely go well.”

Kefin laughed as he recalled the strength of the random bosses I pulled out as well as my usual lucky episodes.

“The second method would be to visit the Water Spirit. From the way it spoke, it felt to me like it knew of something I can do to be able to use Holy Attribute Magic.”

“If we go to Ienith, we’ll be able to meet Naria again so it will be great nya.”

Cathy said that while glancing at Lionel with eyes hinting at something but Lionel’s expression was stiff.

Lionel is quite a serious person so it can’t be helped ...

“The third method would be to find a person capable of using Space-time magic to reset my skills. Then, I can once again re-acquire the skills using SP. Starting my training to relearn everything. If I do so, I’ll have to ask for some help from Shisho too.”

“Betting on a fairy-tale like magic like that ... moreover, a skill reset?”

Shisho had an awful expression as he had nowhere to vent his anger.

Lionel also had a demon-like expression so it was quite terrifying.

“I’ll just be in the same situation as Shisho and Lionel. I’ll say it now that I was terribly shocked when I found out that I had lost my Holy Attribute Magic. I’ll probably tremble when I see monsters. Even so, no matter how many times I unwind time, I will definitely do the same thing. If the 2 of you feel indebted to me, treasure your lives such that I can think back feeling glad that I had saved you 2 and let’s aim to grow old together.”

I told them with a smile.

Unlike when I first came to this world, I now possess combat-ready techniques, the greatest equipment, and money.

And companions that I can rely on the most.

The fact that I'm not starting from nothing, the fact that there is a possibility, I abandoned my desire to give up and moved forward.

If I did not meet the Water Spirit at that time, I believe my confidence would have scattered along with Shisho and Lionel.

With Great Luck-sensei who built the possibility for the future at that time together with the newly added stronger Supreme Luck-sensei, I prayed that they would reel in the chance for me to regain my Holy Attribute Magic as I vowed to do my best with what I can do.

Thus, for us who had safely revived, in order to regain my Holy Attribute Magic, I decided to first head to Meratoni to check that it was really alright if Shisho doesn't do his work before heading to the Holy Capital.

When everyone left my room, I used the keys Lydia returned to me to open the Hermit's Stable.

It was slightly dirty it should be fine.

I thought as I called out for Fornoir.

Fornoir came out from the stable and the first thing she did was play bite my head.

“It’s been such a long time since we met so don’t play bite me ... hey Fornoir, I can’t use Holy Attribute Magic anymore. My identity has completely crumbled so I’m scared of the reaction from those around me. Furthermore, am I capable of surviving in this world without Healing Magic? I’m so worried until it’s unbearable.”

Perhaps Fornoir got tired of biting my head, she turned as if to return to the stables but she sent a kick flying.

“Ouch, don’t kick me it’s dangerous!”

“Burururuu.”

Fornoir once again turned back to face me and looked at me.

“If you’re a spirit, can’t you talk to me?”

When I said that, it looked like she made a slightly sad expression as this time, she really returned to the stable.

“What’s with that ... so that’s my answer huh?”

Fornoir seriously kicked me but my arm only felt slightly painful.

She was probably trying to tell me that I’ve become stronger even without my Holy Attribute Magic.

“Despite that, I hurt her when I asked her to speak to me. I’ll properly apologize to her tomorrow.”

While feeling guilty of making use of Fornoir as a convenient existence, I was thankful as I could feel slightly more optimistic as I went to my bed and slept.

Author’s note:

Thank you for reading.

I put up the status after such a long time so there might be places where the numbers are strange. Also, I wanted to thin out the Healer and Holy Attribute Magic items but I couldn’t find a way so I used () instead.

There’s been another rapid rise in level but he was about level 125 when he defeated the demon while in the condition of not having his vision.

Chapter 169: Till We Meet Again

Does the return of the missing mine to its original location herald the revival of the Demon Lord or foretell a cataclysmic disaster? Such rumors were circulating around Grandol so we purchased food ingredients, large amounts of magical power potions and, just to be safe, some high-grade potions before we departed for Meratoni.

Unlike the route we took to come from Meratoni, this time, we had to pass through the checking station but my S-rank Healer title apparently demonstrated its effectiveness as we were able to successfully pass through.

There's also Nadia and Lydia who are from Blange so I told them that we would be traveling in that direction via Grandol as we head towards the Holy Capital.

And, there were also other differences compared to when we first came to Grandol.

Shisho and Lionel acted as the coachman with Cathy and Kefin in front of the carriage while Estia, Nadia and I were behind it.

Lionel thought of this placement that would be the most efficient if we had to battle monsters or bandits.

Monsters really did appear but certainly because I now have perception-based skills, in addition to being able to give instructions while overseeing the group as a whole, I will no longer

suffer surprise attacks from my left and right as well as from behind me.

Well, Cathy and Kefin pretty much did most of the battles and weakened the monsters before letting Shisho and Lionel defeat them to raise their levels.

We've exchanged roles since the time at the Labyrinth of Traps.

"My level increased again. Leveling up so rapidly reminds me of my rookie days."

"... I also wanted to become an Adventurer if I had the choice ..."

Shisho joyfully spoke of his rookie days but Lionel did not talk about his days within the army.

It might have been due to the difference in having monsters as opponents as compared to having humans as opponents.

Well, Shisho probably did kill bandits as well but Lionel was in the Imperial Army and moreover, he held the position of a general so it's unlikely that he only killed those that were evil.

Even if fighting is bread-and-butter of the occupation, I could imagine how mentally painful the work would have been for Lionel, whose personality is to only kill those that are evil, to fight because of orders from the country.

“Bururururu.”

Because I was lost in thought as I was riding, Fornoir sounded like she was angrily telling me to concentrate on riding.

She forgave me when I apologized to her for what happened yesterday.

While thinking that Fornoir is very mature, Lydia previously mentioned that Fornoir is the Light Spirit but I wonder when would she give me her divine protection.

That’s why our relationship was not human and spirit but instead remains as human and horse and she remains as my partner.

Talking about what changed and what didn’t change, what changed was my heart.

I stopped feeling hesitant yesterday. But thinking about the future, I felt like I was being crushed by anxiety.

Since I can’t utilize Holy Attribute Magic, I will not be able to heal the sick whenever we stop by a village, that feeling of frustration and vexation leads to irritation ... no, I’ll stop making excuses and behaving like a virtuous person.

Gradually without noticing, I had grown to desire praises and words of gratitude from others.

And now, instead of receiving the gratitude of others, I am probably terrified of being blamed for losing my ability.

“Burururu.”

I was surprised by the sound made by Fornoir.

It seems like I was caught in a vortex of thought.

“Sorry. I’ll try my best to change my thoughts.”

That’s right.

I saved Shisho and Lionel.

Furthermore, it’s not like there’s completely no hope, I can probably hold out.

I looked forward ... the carriage was blocking the way but I decided to move forward and my expedition to Grandol that spanned 2 months had ended.

What awaited us when we arrived at Meratoni was a sermon from Garba-san and Grulga-san.

In the guildmaster room of the Adventurer's Guild, Shisho, Garba-san, Grulga-san and I, with only the 4 of us, we explained what happened this 2 months in detail.

Immediately after we began our explanation, I felt intense anger begin to leak from the 2 of them but they quietly listened to our explanation until the end.

Then, the sermon began.

“Broad, what the heck are you doing!! You took a break for the sake of training Luciel and ended up fighting demons and the Evil God, if Luciel wasn't there, you would probably have died and disappeared from this world! ! And Luciel, you too. You are not a mere Healer but the representative of all Healers and stopping your idiotic Shisho is also the job of the disciple. Using the forbidden art and losing your abilities, what are you going to do!!”

Even though nobody blamed me, Garba-san scolded me.

Of course, I was frightened but my body felt slightly lighter.

“There was no reply no matter how much I called with the magic communication bead, so that's the reason ... Broad, your own position ... no, the Adventurer's Guild will take 100 steps back, it doesn't matter anymore. Leaving that aside, have you forgotten about our promise? What was our reason for retiring from being an Adventurer at a young age? It was for the sake of nurturing many adventurers and protecting the people who cannot fight, to

establish and revive the Adventurer's Guild to its original form!!”

Garba-san laid his emotions bare and grabbed Shisho's collar.

Shisho allowed him to do so and did not match Garba-san's gaze.

“Big brother, Broad's level now is low so it's dangerous.”

Grulga-san said as he grabbed Garba-san's hand and made him let go of Broad Shisho's collar.

“I certainly did want to give up once ... but since Luciel-kun came to the Adventurer's Guild, the adventurers in Meratoni gradually grew stronger, the requests from the residents increased and the crimes also decreased. In just a few years this town became extremely bright. Hey Broad, I understand that you treasure Luciel-kun. But if you were prophesized to die, wouldn't it have been better to at least discuss it with us once?”

” ... Sorry.”

That was all Shisho said.

Looking at the appearance of Shisho with his head down, Garba-san let out a grand sigh.

He probably felt that blaming him any more would just be venting his own frustration.

However, his target was not just Shisho.

Garba-san smiled as he looked at me.

I felt like I saw the devil's smile that Warabis described.

“Luciel-kun, if you regain your Holy Attribute Magic, I will also give you my training so I won't say anything now.”

“Ye, yes. I look forward to your guidance at that time.

... Even though my mental resistance should have already reached level X, I was getting terrible chills just from thinking about the training that was to come.

Nevertheless, I was relieved that I won't be berated by mouth any further.

Then, I understood the meaning behind the previous smile.

“Yup. Luciel-kun is honest after all. Just like Broad's favorite phrase, he's like my son so I wish to slowly and honestly nurture him. You mentioned something like that enthusiastically right.”

“Garba?! That's cowardly.”

That's right. He began blurting out words that Shisho could not tell me face to face.

Shisho tried to grab Garba-san to seal his mouth but the similarly grinning Grulga-san stopped him from behind.

Now, he probably can't shake him off with the difference in status.

To think that Shisho thought of me that way ... but, if that's the case, I know of 2 others in front of me who look at me with a similar gaze.

"I also respect and trust the 3 of you from the bottom of my heart."

I have a feeling that if Shisho is my father, Garba-san and Grulga-san definitely see me as a much younger brother and they take care of me while watching over my growth.

After I said that, it felt like Garba-san finally switched from his scary grin to his usual kind smiling expression.

"After Broad heard that Luciel-kun established a school in Ienith, he was considering if he should retire from his guildmaster position in the future. And he wanted to set a new goal where all children regardless of them being born from nobles or commoners attended the school."

” ... Was it by any chance quite an inopportune timing?”

“Kind of. Since I didn’t expect Luciel-kun to be tangled in an event that influences the entire world. It gave even us a surprise ...”

“That’s true ...”

Well, a normal person would probably live without getting involved with the words Reincarnation Dragon or Demon race.

“Don’t make such a gloomy expression. Well then, actually, Broad has quite a lot of work piled up so there’s no way we can let him travel with Luciel-kun. Moreover, I doubt he would want his disciple to see his weak side so please wait patiently for Shisho to make his comeback.”

“Leave Broad to me and my elder brother, hurry up and get your Holy Attribute Magic back. Even if that can’t be done, don’t mope over it as we’ll train you to become an SSS-rank adventurer so make sure to return.”

Garba-san and Grulga-san showed their kindness one way or the other.

“Luciel, for that reason, for the time being, I won’t be able to teach you anything. But I will definitely make a comeback as your Shisho so do your best.”

“Okay.”

“Contact us with the magic communication bead when you’re troubled, the 3 of us will work out a solution.”

“I’ll look forward to your aid at that time.”

“Luciel, don’t give up on life. Let’s meet again.”

“Shisho too, don’t recklessly charge at monsters.”

We firmly exchanged a handshake and said our farewells.

Thus, Shisho left our party and we left Meratoni when night fell as if to conceal ourselves.

At that time, the first to notice Estia’s strange condition was Lydia.

“Your complexion is very pale?”

“I, I’m fine.”

But her face was completely pale.

” ... I can’t heal at this moment, there’s no helping it. Let’s go to the orphanage.”

I decided to bring her to the orphanage.

Since there's no way I could make her drink the terribly disgusting potion when we're not even in battle.

I took the lead as the blood on Estia's face receded.

I quickly rushed into the orphanage.

“Hey, is the director in?”

“What's with the noise? The children will be woken up .. Luciel ... sama.”

I wanted to tsukkomi at that time but I held myself back.

“Sorry but I feel like my magical power is slightly depleted so I can't use my magic, please treat her in my stead.”

” ... So unreasonable. Nevertheless, it's fine. Who should I heal?”

“Estia ... this girl.”

“Fumu. This way then.”

When he guided her to the chair, the Darkness Spirit switched with Estia.

“I don’t need treatment. Family ... you have a daughter?”

Botacyl was shocked at his hand getting grabbed and glared at me.

” ... I did not tell her anything. Estia, are you alright?”

“Yes. Leaving that aside, about your family?”

“It painful. My wife died. My daughter was getting eroded by disease and I could not heal her. Then, I asked the Empire that was developing a secret medicine to treat her, after seeing her healthy appearance only once, I was told that she has become a slave and could no longer meet her. Now I still continue to search for her.”

” ... Is that so. I don’t need healing.”

The Darkness Spirit went outside.

“What was that. I’ll leave your payment here.”

I left 5 gold coins and chased after the Darkness Spirit and it was waiting for me outside.

“What happened exactly?”

“I’ll tell you the reason after Estia calms down. Please head for the Holy Capital for now.”

The Darkness Spirit only mentioned that to me and I could imagine that she could not afford to say anymore.

“We’ll be forcibly traveling at night. Everyone, please do not let down your guard.”

“””””Yes!”””””

We departed for the Holy Capital while under the cover of darkness.

Even though it was dark, we had torchlights so it wasn’t hard to run.

Furthermore, the horses’ boss Fornoir took the initiative to pull so the other horses looked like they were calm.

I was vigilant as we ran down the night road but the relationship between Botacyl and Estia continued to bother me in my mind.

Author’s note:

Thank you for reading.

TL note:

Ooo that's interesting. I originally thought that Estia was Botacyl's daughter but since he couldn't recognize her it means ... Estia knows Botacyl's daughter?

Book 10: Power That Was Lost And New Powers

Chapter 170: To Retrieve What Has Been Lost

After we set off from Meratoni, we traveled through the night on horseback, arrived at the village where we encountered the demons and stayed a night there before setting off to return to the Holy Capital.

The emergence of the demons did not affect the village at all as they calmly welcomed us and I only exchanged a few greetings with the new village elder, nothing in particular happened.

Luckily, there weren't any wounded individuals so I could thankfully get a good rest.

The next day, we leisurely departed for the Holy Capital and the sun had already set by the time we could see it, stop the carriage and enter.

This time, in order to return in absolute secrecy, I planned to cover my visage with my robe, enter the Holy Capital using my Adventurer's card, cut towards the center of the Holy Capital as quickly as possible and reach the Church Headquarters without anybody noticing.

Then, when it was time to execute the plan, was this the result of my training? Nobody called out to me at all.

I was delighted with my accomplishment as I waited for everyone

to gather.

In actual fact, I was the only person who ran through the center, everyone else walked from the back until the meeting point.

I felt like everyone recognized my retainers but they only tilted their heads in puzzlement.

Well, the reason I did something as troublesome as this was because of how well recognized I was and even though I wanted to give up halfway ...

If an injured resident caught me, I won't be able to deal with it and would only be able to treat it using a potion instead of invoking magic so strange rumors might circulate.

I felt like there was no other choice after giving it such thought.

Well, it was Pope-sama who came up with this entire strategy so my true thoughts would be that I have no option of refusing to do so.

“Luciel-sama, you've become faster.”

Lionel praised me when they met up with me.

“All thanks to Lionel and Shisho.”

I told Lionel with a smile before stepping into the Church Headquarters.

Just as I was about to inform the reception of my return, it seemed like Catherine was informed in advance and she came to welcome me.

“Luciel-kun, welcome back. Pope-sama asked me to come meet you, did something happen?”

I was bothered by a gaze I felt secretly looking at me from somewhere but I decided to return Catherine-san’s greeting first and wait for the other party’s move.

“Catherine-san, I’m back. ... What do you mean?”

“Because I noticed that Pope-sama was slightly flustered.”

Pope-sama was probably flustered because I, the S-rank Healer, had lost the ability to use Holy Attribute Magic?

I switched the nature of the conversation in order to not delve any deeper into that topic.

” ... Is that so? Well, I don’t know if it is fine to talk about it but I was caught up in something troublesome during my journey, have you heard about the demons?”

“The incident with the demon race? I’ve heard. I was indeed surprised at that time but hasn’t it been already 2 months since that incident?”

“To tell the truth, this time, I went on a trip to Grandol and for some reason, there was a demon there too. Moreover, it was quite strong too ...”

“Was it a genuine demon?”

“Genuine demon?”

She asked if it was a genuine demon but are there even imposters?

“There were multiple demon corpses the other time right? We were supposed to dispose of them but after some time had passed, they transformed back into humans apart from one of them. After that, instead of turning into undead, they dissolved the next day.”

Demonization ... when push comes to shove, it seems useful against the Evil God’s undeadification but activating it spells an immediate loss of consciousness.

” ... It might have been a created demon. However, this time it remained as a demon after some time has passed so there’s a possibility the corpse would be sent over to your side later.”

“I see. Ah, sorry. I’ll guide you to Pope-sama now. I’ve already

obtained permission for everyone here to accompany you so this way please.”

I somehow made it through without telling the truth to Catherine-san and we left to visit the room Pope-sama was in.

As expected, there was no way I could tell her the truth and I was hesitant about lying to her so I breathed a sigh of relief as I followed Catherine-san.

As always, the attendants left the room the same time we entered the Pope’s room but for some reason this time, Catherine-san didn’t exit.

Just as I was thinking it was strange, Pope-sama spoke to me.

“Luciel, you’ve done well returning alive.”

“Yes, thank you for your warm words.”

Within the dignified atmosphere, I was thankful that she still summoned me despite having lost my Holy Attribute Magic.

However, Pope-sama’s subsequent words caused my trust in her to fall drastically.

“Fumu. Well then, I’ll immediately jump into the main topic, Luciel, I’ve told everything to Catherine.”

” ... Everything?”

Did she really tell her everything? Even if she's the Pope, I can't just accept that ...

“Activating the forbidden art, reviving your instructor and follower that had turned into undead due to the Evil God's actions and ... the price which was your life as a Healer.”

If she has told her everything ... if the job change doesn't go well, maybe I should escape with Lionel to Ienith just in case.

Or perhaps ...

” ... I see. Then, the reason you purposely came to the reception to talk to me was?”

“Yes. In order to reduce the suspicions from the surroundings on why Luciel-kun returned.”

“If that's the case then please let me know in advance. I was anxious since I can't really keep secrets.”

“Whenever Luciel-kun lies or tries to hide something, even though you make sure to not let it show on your face, your eyes would show discomposure so I could immediately tell that you were hiding something.”

Catherine-san said while laughing but it didn't make me feel much better.

Nevertheless, since coming to this world, I have not had any business talks with people so she made me aware that there's the fear of having my emotions read if I am not conscious of it.

That was the sole salvation among everything.

"If so, then Pope-sama, I will immediately jump into the main topic. Could you promote or change my job?"

"Fumu. Like I mentioned before, sit in a meditative pose, calm your mind and close your eyes."

"Yes."

I did as I was told and when Pope-sama's hand touched my forehead, my body became warm and Pope-sama said.

"Jobs that are capable of using Holy Attribute Magic, Paladin, Healer and Priest, are all absent, I thought that it might be possible to redo once again from Healer but it seems like that can't be done either."

Even though I was prepared for it, the shock was still huge ... even so ...

” ... Understood. Then as I had requested before, please allow me to travel to the Independent Magic City Nelldal.”

” ... I thought you would have been more depressed but Luciel sure is strong.”

Pope-sama smiled but it was my real feelings to want to quickly try all the possible means to cure myself as it’s a matter of life and death to me.

“And?”

“I’ve opened the transfer gate for your use at any time but ... there’s one problem.”

“What is it?”

“It’s not possible for everyone to accompany you. At the very most, only three people including Luciel can go.”

I predicted that there would be an upper limit to the number of people that can be transferred but three people are so few.

But if that’s the case ... I stood up and turned back to issue instructions to everyone.

“Lionel, Cathy and Kefin will stay on the ground. I’ll give out

individual instructions later.”

“””Yes!”””

The three of them nodded without raising any opposition.

With this, even if people who bear hatred towards Lionel and the others appear, he won't be exposed to danger.

I'd be troubled if he was subjected to ploys like poisoning. Next ...

“Nadia, Lydia, come over here.”

“”Yes.””

The two of them moved to stand behind me and bowed towards Pope-sama.

“These two are?”

“These two are nobles from the Principality of Blange but are currently active as Adventurers. Many things happened in Grandol and they now accompany me.”

“Noble girls from another country huh ... Do you have any reason for bringing them along?”

“Yes. Actually, Lydia possesses the same Blessing from the Spirit King as Pope-sama and Nadia is the Dragon God Priestess.”

Upon hearing that, Pope-sama’s expression turned into a somewhat stunned expression.

“Seriously ... the things Luciel does really astonish people like what father did. If so, then it would be good to take the girl who possesses the Blessing from the Spirit King along. She will definitely help you in the future. Furthermore, it’s also fine for the Dragon God Priestess to accompany you. She will most likely be of aid to Luciel.”

Pope-sama immediately accepted my decision to have the two of them accompany me.

“Understood. Then, regarding Estia, what should I do?”

“You can leave Estia to me. Also, this time, I will take care of Fornoir here.”

I looked at Estia and thought that her mind would certainly stabilize with Fornoir around so I nodded.

“When do you plan to leave?”

“I will depart tomorrow morning immediately after seeing Lionel and the others off.”

“I see. Catherine, please guide them.”

“Yes! This way please.”

It looked like Catherine would be guiding us to our accommodations but I had to release Fornoir from the Hermit Stable first.

When Fornoir came out and saw Pope-sama and me, she play-bit my head before slowly moving towards Pope-sama.

“Fumu. Luciel is liked by her.”

“Yes. Fornoir is my partner.”

Pope-sama happily commented so I unintentionally leaked my true feelings.

Fornoir didn't show any reaction but her tail was swaying.

Then, I would be going to my personal room while everyone would be going to the dormitory but I secretly spoke to Lionel and the others.

“Once you all reach the dormitory, immediately come to my personal room.”

The three of them quietly nodded and after making sure that they followed Catherine-san, I moved to my personal room.

The three of them visited my room after two hours had passed.

When I opened the door after hearing the sounds of knocking, I saw that they were exhausted.

“What happened?”

” ... Knowing that we had entered the church, people requesting for mock battles and pleading for guidance appeared.”

... Was it the receptionist? Or was it Catherine-san? That was something unnecessary.

” ... Sorry. It would have been alright if I dealt with it beforehand. I’ll jump into business immediately, Lionel, have this.”

I apologized to Lionel and the others and handed them my magic bag.

” ... This magic bag?”

“Yes. I actually passed one to Shisho too. Inside is a letter to Dolan, a certain amount of food, high-grade potions as well as gold

and magic stones.”

“If there’s a letter to Dolan then it means we will be heading to Rockford? If that’s the case, isn’t it sufficient to just lend me an item bag?”

Lionel is seriously diligent and capable.

“To be honest, I don’t think I will be able to return from Nelldal immediately. So during that time, please collect the equipment I ordered for you all and train to be able to use them competently ... especially Lionel. The two of you please support him.”

As if having overcome with emotion, Lionel knelt on the ground and paid vassal homage.

And Cathy and Kefin followed by imitating that while laughing.

“I will once again reach the state where I can make Luciel-sama fall down by the time Luciel-sama is able to return.”

“That’s promising. For me, I’ll be dead if I don’t regain my Holy Attribute Magic so I’ll absolutely regain it.”

If not, it would be absurd to think that I will be able to walk away without any injuries during my mock battles with Shisho and Lionel.

“Leave Lionel-sama to me nya.”

“We won’t be going with Luciel-sama so please tell us about what happened in Nelldal when we meet you later.”

Cathy and Kefin acknowledged my instructions with a smile.

I took this opportunity to properly ask them.

” ... So do you all really wish to continue with our master-servant relationship?”

It’s about our master-servant relationship. By now, apart from when we’re in public places, I wish to interact with them as friends.

“Yes. It is my nature to serve somebody. Furthermore, you saved my life so I hope that it can remain like this even in the future too.”

“I will also serve the person Lionel-sama serves ... nya.”

Eh? Was the ending of the sentence a little delayed?

“Although I’ve been released from slavery, I still have a guilty conscience and I owe Luciel-sama a debt of gratitude so I also wish to serve you like the two of them.”

It's great that Kefin had rehabilitated but he's gradually becoming more and more like Lionel.

The youthful Lionel's appearance was not that much different from Kefin's appearance so it's a sign that they might become good friends ...

“Since you all haven't stopped using honorific speech with me, should I prohibit the use of honorific speech?”

“I'm already accustomed to it and Luciel-sama, please continue speaking the way you've been speaking.”

There was no way I could refuse with the way Lionel said it so I sighed and acknowledged it.

“Ha~ very well. Ah, that's right. There's one more task I wish to entrust to you all. Actually ...”

Upon hearing my request, everyone reluctantly agreed and left my room.

With this, I shouldn't have to worry about everyone for the time being.

This time, I was really sorry that I dragged Nadia and Lydia along with me to the city in the skies without getting their agreement beforehand.

Even so, I'll have them accompany me for a little longer.

They might come to dislike me with this incident but even so, I must regain my usage of Holy Attribute Magic and the two of them have promised to help as much as they can.

Chapter 171: Onward, To The Independent Magic City Nelldal

In the early morning where there has yet to be anyone around, three horses were about to depart from the Holy Capital but noticing that they didn't have anything that can serve as their identification, the three people stopped by the Adventurer's Guild before heading for Rockford.

“Facilities that are open 24 hours sure are convenient ... it's probably tough for those who are working though.”

After sending them off, I was on my way back to my personal room when a voice called out to me from behind.

“Luciel-kun.”

“Good morning. Lumina-san.”

Lumina-san was there when I turned back.

“Yeah, morning. I heard you returned last night?”

“Yes. Sorry for not being able to say hello. Because I'll be leaving the Holy Capital immediately after having my meal.”

“Sounds like you are busy. I thought we could have a mock battle or something if you had the time but ... could I ask where would

you be heading to this time?”

Lumina-san changed the topic while looking like she truly found it to be a shame.

Normally I wouldn't mind just having a mock battle but if I was injured, I'm in a condition where I wouldn't be able to heal myself so I could only reject her offer.

“I'll be going to Nelldal. Actually, my Magical Power Attributes increased so I thought of properly learning magic so I requested it of Pope-sama.”

“I see, you intend to learn magic from other attributes ... if so, then are you going to change your job?”

Are Healers only capable of using Holy Attribute Magic?

While thinking that, I replied her a little ambiguously.

“I'll be retaining that too. It would be great if turns into a job that can use Holy Attribute Magic such as Paladin etc.”

“Fufu, that will be interesting. If that becomes reality, there would probably be a struggle within the Paladin corps to pull Luciel-kun in.”

” ... I'm slightly terrified just thinking about it.”

It reminded me of invitations from sports clubs but compared to that, I ended up seeing a future where their scramble for me would be even more savage.

I shook my head and dispelled my delusions.

“It just shows how popular you are. Then I’ll be going for my training.”

Lumina-san laughed and said she’ll be going ahead so I cheered her on.

“Yeah, do your best. Ah, lately I’ve encountered villagers who can turn into demons and the demonization is sudden so when you’re out on expeditions please maintain your vigilance even within villages.”

” ... Thanks for the advice.”

Then, Lumina left for the training grounds.

“I won’t be able to think about the kiss until after everything has been settled so, sorry.”

I bowed towards Lumina-san who had already left.

I met up with Estia, Nadia and Lydia when it was time for

breakfast but, excluding the Valkyrie Paladin Corps, it was a workplace with few females so we were exposed to numerous gazes.

Nadia and Lydia seemed like they were accustomed to being looked at but Estia's complexion was worse for wear today as well.

“Estia, were you able to sleep last night?”

” ... I wasn't really able to sleep.”

She shook her head and covered her face with both hands.

” ... Is that because of what happened in Meratoni? Or is there something else?”

” ... Both.”

I felt like I heard some fear mixed within the small voice she somehow squeezed out.

” ... I see. I'll let Pope-sama know too. You can tell me about Meratoni once you've calmed down. Also, I can't say that I am used to situations like these. Do your best. When you're at your wit's end, don't hold back, you can cry on Fornoir and Pope-sama.”

” ... Okay.”

After hearing my nonsensical remarks, she turned to look at me and nodded with a smile.

With her that stiff smile, it felt like she cheered up slightly.

“Well then ... Nadia, Lydia. I am terribly sorry for forcing you two to accompany me this time. I feel that I neglected to take your thoughts into consideration.”

Riding on the momentum of my talk with Estia, I apologized to Nadia and Lydia.

However, as I was about to lower my head deeply, I noticed the gazes from our surroundings so I stopped with just a slight nod.

“It’s a fact that I was surprised but I’ve actually always wanted to go to Nelldal once. So I am actually very happy. I should be the one thanking you, thank you.”

“Elder sister and I both love to read the accounts of hero battles and we read about the floating city there but unfortunately, the permission from the king is required to travel to Nelldal from Blange so it was an unattainable dream for daughters of a Baron house like us. So we’re truly happy.”

The two of them seemed like they really did not mind it.

On the contrary, they apparently have a strong interest in Nelldal and this was instead a welcomed development so they ended up

thanking me.

The sense of guilt I was feeling up until just now was cleared and it was understandable as it wasn't just words they said to be polite, they spoke from their heart.

At the same time, I realized that I did not look at their expression at that time.

I was once again made aware of how discomposed I was.

” ... I'm glad to hear you two say that. Once we arrive at Nelldal, I'll be having the two of you learn magic too. But generally, I'll probably be letting you two spend your time freely.”

“Are you sure that is alright?”

“We'll be accompanying you as your retainers right?”

The two of them were surprised but it's because Nelldal extols the policy of non-combat.

“Yeah. But fundamentally I won't be enforcing any restrictions onto the two of you. But I just have one request. Once we arrive at Nelldal, we'll immediately head towards the fountain in the center. We might have to enter combat there so I hope you two will prepare yourselves for that.”

“Battle ... there shouldn’t be a problem if it’s just to the extent of a small skirmish.”

“This time around, I’ll make sure to be useful.”

Rather than young ladies from a noble family, the two of them felt more like expert high-rank Adventurers so they seemed very reliable.

After finishing our meal, before Lumina-san and the others came, we once again left to visit Pope-sama’s room.

” ... And so Fornoir. Why are you biting my head as soon as we meet.”

Just as I was about to speak after entering the room, the approaching Fornoir suddenly began play biting my head.

Fornoir did not stop biting as she ignored my words.

After that, I gave up and let Fornoir do whatever she wanted but she was apparently satisfied and moved back to Pope-sama’s side.

“Pope-sama, I apologize for my rudeness.”

“It’s fine. She’s probably feeling lonely as she has to part with her partner.”

Pope-sama forgave me while laughing.

“Burururuu.”

Fornoir took a slightly disgruntled attitude after hearing that.

Currently, at this location, there was only the four of us along with Pope-sama and Fornoir.

“Well as I am leaving Fornoir in your care at the moment, I also wish to leave this with you too.”

“This is a key?”

“Yes. It is a magic tool, the Hermit’s Key. Turning the key will cause a stable to appear and when Fornoir enters it, it has the effect of feeding her and taking care of her body.”

“You certainly have a convenient item.”

“Yeah. It came in handy during my travels. This time I will be going to Nelldal in the name of an expedition but in actual fact, I still can’t predict how long I would have to spend there ... so I wish to leave this with Pope-sama.”

“Umu. You can leave Fornoir to me.”

As expected, there's a limit to how long Fornoir can stay in Pope-sama's room and she would probably accumulate stress that way.

I could have also left the key to Estia to manage but I was also afraid to have Fornoir depend on Estia.

So I requested Pope-sama to manage it.

"Thank you. Also, one more thing, Estia is shy and not accustomed to people looking at her so once again, please look after her."

"Very well. It is normal for an individual possessing the blessing of the Spirit King to give advice to ones who possess the blessing of spirits."

I indirectly spoke about what happened this morning and Pope-sama nodded with a smile.

I restrained myself from getting engrossed in looking at her appearance as I requested for her to transfer us to Nelldal.

"Well then, I've ended up doing things in a rush but Pope-sama, please transfer us."

"Umu. Follow me."

Pope-sama moved to the room to the right so we followed after

her.

I thought that we would be using the transfer magic in the Pope's room but it apparently wasn't so.

The neighboring room didn't have any windows and apart from a burning candle on a candlestick, it was a room with only a magic circle on the floor.

“We'll be doing it here in this dimly lit place?”

“That's right. It was constructed to prevent the mixing of the magical power in the air.”

It was probably Sir Rainstar who constructed it.

He really amazes me. But if that person acquired Space-time Magic, wouldn't he be able to roam through space and time?

Thinking about that, if it's him, wouldn't he have done something about the Evil God?

Just as I was lost in thought about that, I followed Pope-sama's instructions and moved to the center of the magic circle.

“There won't be any problems if you hand this over once you reach that side.”

She said as she passed a letter to me.

“Who should I pass this to?”

“The Magician Guild Leader that manages Nelldal. He’ll definitely be of help to you.”

“Thank you very much.”

Pope-sama smiled and nodded before she struck the magic circle with her staff.

The magic circle emitted white light and the instant I was completely bathed in white, I felt an extremely strange sensation.

It was as if I was floating in midair ... to be exact, it felt like I was experiencing weightlessness, a feeling like my feet were not touching the ground.

Then, the light gradually faded and we were in a dimly lit room similar to the place Pope-sama sent us off.

To be sure, I closed my eyes and used Presence and Magical Power Perception but I did not sense any of Pope-sama’s magical power.

Instead, I felt numerous presences and actually felt that we’ve transferred.

“Are the two of you alright?”

“Yes. It was a slightly weird sensation but it’s not a problem.”

“I am fine too.”

After the two of them replied with that and I confirmed that they were fine, I opened the door in front of us.

The location we emerged into after passing through the door was a room where sunlight entered beautifully and was beautiful to the extent that it made one fall into admiration.

“This is amazing.”

“It’s wonderful. It’s the first time in my life I’ve seen such pretty decorations.”

“We’re really in the Sky City ... truly beautiful.”

Sir Rainstar, even as a reincarnated individual, you are way too extraordinary.

“There are 8 rooms ... there’s surplus even if all the countries are included ...”

It's not like we could keep staring forever so I confirmed our surroundings.

When I did so, I noticed that there were 7 other doors similar to the one we exited from.

Although I saw a total of 8 doors, I had no idea if they all had transfer circles so I discontinued that thought and embarked on searching around.

"First, let's look for the center of Nelldal or the Magical Arts Church."

"Yes!"

Even though I was slightly uneasy, I earnestly wanted my job to bloom safely as I opened the door with a plate written as 'Entrance' hung on it.

Chapter 172: Magic Guild Leader Orford

Upon leaving the decorated room, we entered a dazzling corridor that stretched forth in a straight line.

“This place is amazing too. This place is probably the Magic Guild. I sense strong magical powers ahead so let’s try moving in that direction.”

Following the path set by the corridor, we moved forward and reached the Magic Guild.

When we exited the corridor, there was a small reception directly in front of us with staircases leading up and down behind it.

“It leads to this. Let’s go to the reception first.”

“”Yes.””

I spoke to the reception lady in front of us together with the two of them.

“We’ve come from the Saint Schull Allied Nations, I am the Healer Luciel and these two are my retinue. I’ve received a letter from Pope-sama addressed to the Magic Guild Leader, could you please convey the message for me?”

“Yes, sir. Please wait a moment.”

The receptionist lady replied and began communicating with a magic communication bead.

When I looked around the surroundings until her conversation ended, I noticed that there were actually a couple of information sign plates hanging down from the ceiling.

If combined with a floor plan then I would probably not get lost in here.

The receptionist lady finished her conversation as I was thinking about such things.

“Sorry to keep you waiting. The person responsible will arrive soon so please wait for a moment.”

“I see. Thank you. By the way, I have a question, do you have a floor plan for this Magic Guild as well as a map that depicts the overall layout of Nelldal?”

“Yes. We do but it has to be purchased, is that all right?”

Since they are maintaining a facility like this, their maintenance cost should also be quite considerable?

That might be why they have a system to collect something like an admission fee.

I was convinced so I asked for the price.

“Yes. How much is it?”

“The map that shows the entire Nelldal will be 10 gold coins while the Magic Guild interior plan will be 5 gold coins.”

Converting that into Japanese yen would be 15 million (~1500USD) ... well, I can pay for it but even so, it is expensive.

She presented a price that one would not be able to pay for normally so it felt to me like it was some kind of test.

” ... Then, here you go.”

That’s why I left a slight pause before giving her 15 gold coins.

The reception lady was shocked by my quick actions.

She probably didn’t expect there to be anyone who would pay a price like that.

But that was exactly why I imagined and expected some kind of special benefit if I bought them.

” ... Are you sure?”

“Yes. I believe I would be staying here for some time so in consideration of that, I intend to buy it because I might get lost without a map.”

She asked gingerly but I answered with a smile so she looked somewhat relieved as she passed me a hardcover book and a booklet.

“This would show you the entirety of Nelldal while this is the map of the Magic Guild as well as a free pass to the Magic Archive.”

I imagined a thin map or a pamphlet-kind of document but I was totally wrong.

When I briefly flipped through it, I saw, described in detail, information such as the correct method to use each of the facilities and the reason why such facilities were constructed.

The Magic Guild booklet was more like a pamphlet that detailed the leisure facilities but there was one remark that caught my attention.

“Free pass to the Magic Archive?”

“Yes. Almost none of the people who visit this Magic Guild purchase the guild information map. However, that lacked an interesting aspect so we prepared a special benefit.”

“That would be the free pass to the Magic Archive?”

“Yes. The admission ticket to the Magic Archive is sold inside as well but it cost 10 gold coins for a day so this would be a tremendous bargain if you intend to stay here for a long time.”

” ... I see. Who was it who came up with this?”

“It was the founder of Nelldal as well as the leader of the Magic Guild at that time.”

I no longer felt like asking anymore.

As if she had guessed it, I heard the sound of somebody coming up the stairs.

A lady soon appeared but I was surprised when I saw her appearance.

The appearance of the lady who came up the stairs and the appearance of the reception lady was like two peas in a pod.

Twins? Just as I thought that, I immediately discovered the truth.

“Sorry to keep you waiting guild leader, I heard there’s a customer? Eh, why are you disguising yourself as me!!”

The lady looked like she was shocked for a moment after seeing the receptionist lady with the same face but she got angry the next moment.

“Fofofo. There was a request from the Holy Capital Pope-sama right? Well then, guests, I am the Magic Guild guildmaster Orford. It’s a bit open here so I’ll guide you to my room.”

The supposed receptionist lady stood up and said that but the lady trembled and raised her voice.

“More important than that, please stop disguising yourself as me.”

“There’s no helping it, alright, dispel!!”

The next instant, white smoke wrapped around Orford-san and the smoke immediately disappeared. But it was not the reception lady who reappeared but the figure of a good-natured old man dressed in a blue-drenched robe with white hair and a long white beard.

That magic that could transform one’s form was something I greatly desired in the past.

” ... Erm, may I know what magic attribute does that magic belong to?”

That’s why I could not resist myself from asking.

“It is a Mixed Magic that superimposes Water Attribute and Fire Attribute. Well then, let’s go.”

That appearance that usually appears in novels is probably not just for show.

I might be able to regain my Holy Attribute Magic if I take a lesson from this person.

While thinking that, I chased after the guildmaster who was ascending the steps.

After beginning to ascend the steps, the dazzling impression of the surroundings drastically changed and it felt like I stepped into a different building that gave off a refined feeling.

“This is my room.”

We entered the guildmaster room as guided.

We immediately came across a setup for receiving guests so I thought we would be talking there but he passed that by and stopped in front of a mirror ... or rather, he was sucked into the mirror.

“Ha? He disappeared?”

“”Disappeared!?””

When we made dumbfounded expressions, Orford-san came out from the mirror.

“Fofofo, surprised? This is a magic mirror, a special mirror that only allows the person whose magical power has been imprinted as well as those who have received his authorization to enter.”

” ... Did you perhaps return because you forgot to give us the permission?”

” ... Fofofo. Don’t fret the minor details and follow me.”

He said as he disappeared into the mirror.

“He completely forgot right.”

“He’s of old age so he’s bound to forget one or two things.”

“He might love to pull pranks but I don’t sense any evil intentions from him.”

The two of them seem like they are kind towards their elders but Orford-san is definitely ...

It felt like everything was done to test us but I took a deep breath

and headed towards the mirror.

” ... Let’s follow then.”

I touched the mirror and my arm was sucked into it. I slowly entered the mirror in that fashion and I appeared in a place that looked exactly like the guildmaster room.

“This place is?”

“This is the real guildmaster room. That over there is a fake since people occasionally enter without permission. Well, come sit over here and relax.”

The two others followed immediately so he offered us chairs.

“Thank you.”

Nadia and Lydia tried to stand behind my chair but I had them sit together with us.

“I’ll introduce myself again. I am the Healer’s Guild S-rank Healer Luciel. Thank you for making time to meet me.”

“Fumu. So stiff~, you have to relax a little more.”

He made a good-natured old man expression and I felt that his

eyes could see through everything and that he was chiding me for being impatient.

” ... Thank you. This is the letter from Pope-sama.”

“Fumu. Before that, how about some black tea?”

” ... Thank you.”

“Fo, fo, fo. Please wait a moment.”

I felt like I was slightly impatient but I wondered why was I feeling so impatient.

I don't know if the reason was because I wanted to regain my Holy Attribute Magic as soon as possible or because I could not bear not having Healer as my job.

Orford-san stood up without losing his smile and went to brew the black tea.

Lydia chose to speak at her own discretion.

” ... Those eyes that look like they can see through everything might be an Appraisal skill.”

“True, that might be a possibility.”

Nadia responded that way but I denied it.

“If it’s the Appraisal skill then he’s the third person I’ve met who possess it. But I believe it is not Appraisal but something else ... it gives me the impression that it allows him to look into the essence of a person.”

“The essence?”

“Yes. I feel that we have continually been tested ever since we arrived at this Magic Guild. Furthermore, it seems like he knows that I am impatient ... and it feels like he is giving me guidance in that fashion.”

“I see. As expected of the leader of the Magic Guild Headquarters.”

“It looks like Luciel-sama has calmed down too to be able to come up with that theory.”

“That might be true.”

After talking with the two of them and calming down, Orford-san carried the black tea over.

“Did I make you wait?”

“No, I was able to calm down thanks to that.”

“Fumu. Then, I will read the letter so drink the tea.”

“Okay.”

I passed him the letter I received from Pope-sama after receiving the black tea.

Orford-san began to read the letter and since he went through the trouble to make it, I drank the black tea and it was very fragrant and extremely tasty.

It looked like the other two also had the same impression so he probably had considerable skill.

But I wanted it to be just a little bit sweeter so while making sure Orford-san who was seriously reading the letter did not notice, I pulled out a small vial of honey.

The sisters saw that so I poured some into theirs too. The instant the two of them held it in their mouths, they gave extremely blissful expressions so I was relieved that the honey went well with the black tea.

Then, just as I was about to keep the honey, Orford-san met my eyes.

” ... Is that, by any chance, honey?”

“Yes. Please have some if you want to.”

I passed him the small vial.

“No doubt about it. Where did you get this?”

“From a factory. So, what did Pope-sama say?”

“Loss of Healer job and Holy Attribute Magic ... the attribute was not erased so she requested for my help if I have any means to treat you. There were some other things too.”

” ... I see. Please lend me your strength.”

“There are conditions.”

“As long as they are not unreasonable, I will accept it all.”

” ... I wish for a large amount of honey. I will lend my strength if you promise me that.”

“I can do that. If I regain the use of Holy Attribute Magic, I will even dedicate honey mead to you.”

“Wh, what? We can't idle here. Quickly, to the Magic Archive.

I'll definitely help you regain your Holy Attribute Magic immediately."

" ... Yes."

To be able to tempt him with items, is the Magic Guild really alright?

Even though I was slightly uneasy, in order to regain my Holy Attribute Magic, I was thankful that I gained a powerful helper and we moved to the Magic Archives after we finished drinking the black tea.

Chapter 173: Astonishment

I purchased 2 maps from the Magic Guild but I still had not have the chance to look at them so without knowing where the Magic Archive was, we followed after Orford-san.

I expected him to exit through the mirror once again and move off from there but Orford-san moved in the opposite direction from the mirror towards an imitation magic circle that was placed there as decoration.

“Isn’t this just a decoration?”

“Fofofo. We can teleport there at once with this magic circle.”

I wonder who would notice that the magic circle placed there as if to symbolize the Magic Guild was actually a real teleportation magic circle?

Orford-san happily said as he stood on top of the magic circle.

The three of us entered the magic circle too but I was concerned about one thing.

“Is there no limit to the number of people?”

“There is but if it’s only for short distance movement, it can easily transfer about ten people.”

I was relieved by his answer and waited for the activation of the magic circle.

As soon as I noticed it emit light, we had already flown from the guildmaster room to the Magic Archive.

The Magic Archive was built in a cylindrical shape and there were bookshelves lined up along the walls.

I could not help but be surprised at seeing this amount of books even in this world.

“We’ve arrived. Well then, I’ll first try to find something among the restricted books and come back. You guys can read whatever books you have an interest in. Also, entry into this place is only limited to a few people so give them my name if anybody asks.”

“Understood. I just have one question, is there perhaps a reason why it is called a Magic Archive instead of a library?”

The place was truly stunning but I felt like it wouldn’t live up to its name with just that reason.

Towards my question, Orford-san merely smiled and silently moved to the back room.

I didn’t understand what was he trying to tell me with that smile

but the two people beside me were fidgeting so I instructed them.

” ... Can’t help it. Since he left without saying a word, basically, it should be fine for us to freely do what we want. The two of you can read whichever books you are interested in. We’ll probably come back in the future but you might not have the chance to read the books you like.”

“Yes. Thank you.”

“For there to be such a collection, I’m troubled by where to start from.”

The two of them happily went to rummage for books.

It was heart-warming to see the two of them like that but I refocused my mind and sat down on the nearby chair.

Orford-san was controlling himself from saying something so there’s probably some kind of gimmick to it.

But even before that, the hardcover map and Magic Guild brochure I bought just now was still stuck in my mind.

That’s why I decided to read those two first.

“First would be the brochure that acts as the key to enter and exit this place. Hn?”

When I took a good look at the brochure, I noticed a magic circle carved into it.

” ... Don’t tell me this is the key to enter this archive ... Orford-san even has a security function that lets him know who enters this place? I didn’t expect something to that extent ...”

It was very much possible with Sir Rainstar so I was just astonished.

The teleportation magic circle has an auto-logging security feature (provisional) ... their technical capability is impressive.

Here, not only could I regain my Holy Attribute Magic, I might even be able to absorb various other techniques.

Thinking about it made my heart beat quicken from the expectations.

I took a deep breath to soothe my heart rate and proceeded to read the Magic Guild brochure.

And immediately after I started reading, a certain item caught my eye.

Why is the Magic Guild Headquarters located at the floating Independent Magic City Nelldal?

It was an outline roughly along those lines.

I know that this Nelldal was not constructed for the sake of the Magic Guild.

I heard it directly from the person himself (Rainstar) so there's no doubt about that.

Then what was the reason? The following was written when I continued reading.

The one who controls the sky controls the world.

The words I heard somewhere before was recorded there as it is.

When I read further, it was recorded that the Magic Guild Leader at that time was deeply impressed by those words and begged the Hero to let him set up the Magic Guild in Nelldal.

“I'm surprised they did not revise this part. Did he perhaps take some oath?”

In the first place, since that person was able to create a country of Healers, what's so surprising about finding out that he made two countries?

I could only sigh as I continued reading.

The hero stated the conditions to construct the Magic Guild in Nelldal.

He hoped that they will not be a hindrance or a nuisance to anyone and that only individuals who aim to explore magic are allowed to enter.

“Isn’t that similar to Rockford just that they are different fields ... was Sir Rainstar’s intention to create a monopoly in techniques?”

If that’s the truth then although it is called the Magic Guild Headquarters, it is actually a facility only for research where individuals who wish to explore magic research new magic techniques day in and day out.

I thought as I continued reading the brochure and it seemed like they were conducting research for all kinds of fields.

If classified into the larger fields, it would be the three main fields of magical tools, magic and magic technique with further detailed categories for each field.

Magic tools was categorized into those for combat and for regular use and further research according to magic stone attributes was apparently being conducted.

Magical technique was classified into magic circles and chants.

Last but not least was magic but it was classified into Ancient Magic, Mixed Magic, Spirit Magic, Dragon Magic and magic that even beastmen can use.

All the research facilities for those purposes were listed in detail.

“Do more dangerous research facilities lie below this? Rather than that, is this Magic Guild by any chance ...”

I had a seriously bad feeling about it but I considered the future benefits of studying here at the moment.

Thus, I had read through the brochure to a certain extent.

When I looked up to confirm my surroundings, Orford-san had yet to return and Nadia and Lydia seemed to have found books that they wanted to read and have begun reading them.

After confirming that, I was about to read the hardcover book that described the overview of Nelldal.

Light shined out from the book and a three-dimensional image appeared.

“Welcome to the Independent Magic City Nelldal. I am the hero who constructed this city in the skies. If possible, I wish that it became a city that satisfies people who understand my ambition.”

It was a short three-dimensional projection of just that.

“What on earth did that person intend to achieve?”

It was blurry on a whole and the face could not be seen but there were many similarities to Sir Rainstar who I met previously at Rockford.

Well I won't be able to discover anything even if I thought about it so I continued reading but from then on it was a regular book with no other tricks that described Nelldal in great detail to give readers an understanding of the overall picture of Nelldal.

The Independent Magic City Nelldal was actually comparatively small as a city with a distorted circular shape of 3 kilometers diameter and depth of only about 2 kilometers.

Sir Rainstar probably wanted a city in the skies that he could strike down if he ever wanted to destroy it.

Nelldal has a solid barrier surrounding it that apparently won't be damaged by even the breath attack of a black dragon.

“I don't know how amazing a black dragon is but it's too late now to feel that that person is abnormal.”

I flipped the pages and stiffened when I saw a certain sentence.

Although the defensive function of Nelldal was because of the magic circle refined by the Hero, it is not certain but it is said that it is possible due to the twin dragons the Wind Dragon and the Water Dragon.

” ... I didn’t hear about this. Wasn’t it supposed to only be the Wind Spirit!!”

Seeing the report listed in the book, I unintentionally cried out.

With no venue to vent my gloomy complex feelings, I could not keep calm.

“Luciel-sama, are you alright?”

“Did something happen?”

Nadia and Lydia were worried and came over but I apologized for my shameful outburst.

” ... Sorry. Don’t worry about it. Maybe because I’ve stopped being a Healer, my mood swings seemed to have intensified.”

“You don’t have to force yourself to smile. Because we are here as your retainers.”

“You can tell us anything.”

I somehow felt apologetic seeing how devoted the two of them were.

“Thank you. But now I have some things I wish to think about so please give me some time alone. It’s your valuable free time as well so the two of you can return to reading your books.”

” ... Understood. Then, please let us know if you need anything.”

“We will immediately rush over.”

“Okay. Thank you.”

After saying so, the two of them returned to the places they originally were.

I took a deep breath and once again looked down onto the book about Nelldal.

Moreover, it’s not certain that the details written in the book are actually accurate.

Then, I noticed something.

“Eh? Wait. Don’t tell me ... ”

I quickly turned the pages and saw that the Magic Guild was in the center of Nelldal and the town spread out to its east west south and north.

“Then where’s the fountain?”

When I looked it up in the brochure, I found that there was a fountain in the Magic Guild courtyard.

“All the conditions are fulfilled ... that means, the bad feeling I had just now ...”

All the scattered pieces in my head connected.

At that point, a depressed Orford-san returned.

“As expected, there wasn’t anything regarding the loss of job after using a forbidden art.”

“Orford-san, I have two things I wish to ask.”

“Wha, what is it?”

Maybe because I was slightly excited, it seemed like I surprised him.

I calmed myself and asked about the two things.

“If the fairy tale-like dragons written here reincarnate, will Nelldal fall from the sky?”

“Fumu. Even if the dragons exist and they are defeated, Nelldal will probably still not fall. Since we have already prepared for it by carving floating magic circles on Nelldal.”

Feeling relieved that the worst case scenario would not happen, I asked the next question to affix the final piece.

“Just hypothetically, do you all possess magic or magic tools that are capable of dispelling Evil God-class seals?”

” ... No.”

His expression did not change when he answered no but it felt to me that the aura and intimidation he released from his eyes increased.

“Then, if dragons exist, do you know of any potion-like item that can seal their wounds?”

“No, because there have not been any dragons. Well, there’s no need to be so anxious.”

“I wish to quickly regain my ability no matter what.”

“Well, calm down. I heard from Pope-sama that you have aptitude in several other attributes. It won’t be too late to see after you train those right?”

I understood that it was useless no matter what Orford-san said in the present circumstances.

I reset my mind and decided that this time, I will train magic in Nelldal while fishing through the collection of books.

” ... Okay. I did want to try magic from the other attributes.”

“That’s good. I will serve as your lecturer.”

Orford-san smiled looking as if he was satisfied with my answer but I made a decision to ascertain why he so obstinately evaded my questions.

Chapter 174: Magic That Can't Be Invoked And Secrets

While listening to his lecture in the Magic Archive, Orford-san selected an easy-to-understand book about magic for me.

Then, Orford-san looked at me and remarked that my attributes were Holy, Flame, Earth and Lightning, four types in total.

It seems like he really does possess the Appraisal skill and it's a secret that I felt that it was a pity how the blessings from the spirits did not affect my attributes.

It was a lecture by Orford-san but he only said three things.

“The key points to magic are a deep understanding of the chants, imagery that depicts the event in detail, and the activation that draws magical power to interfere with the world.”

“The same thing was written in the elementary magic book I read in the Healer's Guild in the past.”

“The chants differ according to the imagery and there will be good parts and bad parts but it varies from person to person so you will have to capture your own individuality and strive to practice.”

“””Yes.”””

Incidentally, Orford-san also looked at the aptitude of the two of them, Nadia possesses the Lightning, Water and Wind attributes while Lydia has aptitude in the basic four attributes.

From then on, he was motivated for some reason and took up the role of lecturer for the two of them too.

However, what awaited us was a recital that was called a lecture.

... Even though I wanted him to teach me chants and magic circles, for some reason, he just endlessly spoke about contents written in the book and I ended up gradually getting sleepy.

Because to that, I asked Orford-san if there was any place where it would be fine to accidentally cast magic.

“I’ve memorized all the chants for the LvI magic of the attributes I have aptitude in so is there any place where it would be fine to accidentally cast magic?”

“Fumu, it’s true that actual practice is essential too. Then, let’s move to the magic training ground. It’s the training ground that our Magic Guild takes pride in that has been around since the creation of Nelldal and it is covered in walls that will instantaneously fix even if magic is released and destroys it.”

Orford-san smiled in delight but I understood that I was correct on what this Nelldal actually is, from what I thought of just now and the presence of the dragons.

“Sorry to trouble you.”

But I did not talk about it.

Because I felt that it'll definitely happen if I talked about it.

While following Orford-san out of the Magic Archive, I thought about the two people behind me.

They were, even though only for a time, ladies from a noble family so I thought that they would be able to use magic but now that I think about it, I've never seen them use magic at all.

Following that line of thought, I ended up wondering if chanting magic not only depends on the aptitude and attribute but also the job?

Then, since Lydia is able to exercise Spirit Magic, is she also able to utilize regular magic? I had some doubts about that.

I also wondered why Orford-san didn't point that out when he browsed through the status page of the two of them but I decided to ask him everything after the training.

After walking for roughly about a minute from the Magic Archive, we entered a door but even though miasma was not floating in the air, it was a training ground that could easily be

mistaken as a boss room.

“How is it? It was constructed quite splendidly right? Here, the place won’t be destroyed no matter what kind of magic you release.”

” ... Thank you. Then, I will strive until I can manifest magic. The two of you can try too.”

Thus, my magic training began but I would be able to enjoy this.

I had a hunch.

That’s right. Even though it was just a hunch, my expectations were betrayed.

Even though I tried regular chants, chant shortening, chant termination, no chant, unique chants and magic circle chants with all the attributes, my Illusionary Cane was only wrapped in overflowing light from the attributes as if absorbing it in but there was no sign of the magic activating at all.

“If my magical power is being consumed, then I should be able to activate it if I don’t hold anything.”

I pulled myself together and tried activating the Flame attribute magic called Torch but this time, my body was wrapped in magical power and the end result was that I still could not manifest the magic.

I knew that my magical power was decreasing for some reason so I tried looking at my proficiency value but the growth of my attributes did not rise by even one point.

It didn't look like it was a problem that I could break through on my own so although I was a little lost, I tried asking Orford-san.

Since he's the Magic Guild Leader, he should be knowledgeable on such a phenomenon right? I had such expectations.

"Orford-san, I chanted the magic and I was wrapped in the magical power of that attribute but I totally can't activate it so do you have any advice?"

"... You were operating the magical power properly and the balance of your control was good too. But it's the first time I've seen someone not manifest the magic despite continually chanting that much."

He tilted his head and showed a troubled expression as he gave that remark that sounded like it was faked.

If that's the case then I wanted him to teach me what to do but he didn't say anything and merely watched the magic training of the other two.

"Orford-san, I have two ... no, three questions."

“Umu. I’ll answer if it’s something I know.”

As if he was delighted to be asked, he replied me radiantly.

Seeing that, Nadia and Lydia also looked like they wanted to ask him questions later too.

“Then, firstly, does any other Healing Magic exist outside the Holy Attribute?”

“It does. In the Light Attribute. It is capable of everything: attacking, supporting, and healing.”

“But I heard that it can only be handled by a hero?”

This person was telling me various things but I noticed that it felt like he was quietly trying to probe if I was a reincarnated individual.

“I’m surprised you know that. Heroes are capable of possessing all attributes. That has also been recorded in literature.”

I don’t know why he’s so happy but I guess this person essentially loves to talk to people.

Once I realized that, I noticed that there wasn’t a need to talk while putting up a front.

For that reason, I began throwing straightforward questions at him.

” ... What about ones that ordinary people can use?”

“It might be possible if Holy Attribute magic, Water Attribute and Wind Attribute are mixed together, but even though it may have been around during ancient times, I’ve not heard of any successful restoration of that ancient magic.”

“What about in the past?”

“I don’t know.”

Orford-san silently shook his head and touched his long beard.

“I see. Well, I guess that’s to be expected. Somebody would have told me if it is known ... then, the next question, is there a possibility that I can’t handle many magic attributes well because of the effect of my job?”

“No. When your job itself changed, it will cause some kind of wastage during your activation but it won’t be a problem.”

There was overflowing confidence on Orford-san’s face.

Now that I think about it, I was slightly bothered with why Pope-sama did not know about that.

Well, if I think about it, I might be lacking something to be able to utilize magic or it might be related to how I easily increased my attributes by acquiring the blessings of dragons and spirits, my thoughts were starting to get tangled up.

At this point, I decided to search for books that have such information later in the Magic Archive.

Then, I asked the last question.

“This is the final question, the construct of this training ground resembles that of a labyrinth but could you enlighten me if you know of the reason why they did it that way?”

When I asked that, for a split second, Orford-san’s expression froze, he had clearly stiffened.

“Umu. I don’t know the actual reason but it might have been constructed using labyrinths as a reference.”

But he immediately plastered on his usual smiling face and answered vaguely.

“Is that so? Incidentally, how many more similar training grounds are there?”

” ... If I’m correct, there are 3 but why do you ask?”

“I have something I wish to investigate here so I plan to stay here for the time being. I was just curious since it doesn’t seem like I would be able to always use this training ground.”

If there are similar training grounds, do the dragon seal doors appear there? There was no need to ask such a foolishly honest hypothetical question so this time I deceived him.

“I see. No matter which area you are at, you can pass as long as you hold the Magic Guild map up so you can be at ease.”

“Thank you. Please allow me to ask if I think of any other questions.”

While I thought about the future, I decided to continue my magic training and study the collection in the Magic Archive as I looked for the opportunity to bring Nadia and Lydia along with me to the fountain.

Chapter 175: Rumors From The Past And The Consequences

We received magic training for a couple of hours in the magic training ground but nobody invoked anything ... to be exact, Lydia was able to invoke something. But it was Spirit Magic so it's not counted.

Orford-san merely watched us silently.

“Do you have a minute?”

Maybe my thoughts were shown on my face, with his serious expression, I thought perhaps I would be receiving guidance from Orford-san?

But he spoke words that I did not expect.

“It's about noon. After this, I'll guide you all to your accommodations.”

Now that I noticed, we have indeed spent a couple of hours here.

But without achieving anything, would you be able to obediently nod to the words of a person who did not give any kind of guidance? I found that hard to do.

” ... Erm, what about the magic training?”

“Pushing yourself too hard will on the contrary cause you to fail. Follow me.”

Orford-san said that and moved towards the door.

Shisho and Lionel trained me thoroughly with a purpose so having grown accustomed to such styles, I was unsatisfied with Orford-san’s easygoing method.

It looked like it was the same for Nadia and Lydia and they were seeking my opinion with perplexed expressions.

“Luciel-sama.”

“What should we do?”

I looked at their expressions and thought.

If the two of them weren’t here, I would probably rebel by searching for the reason why I can’t invoke magic.

But it struck me that taking that attitude was something a child would do.

” ... We won’t have sudden growth even if we continue any longer so let’s follow Orford-san for now. Also, we might be spending a long time doing the same thing so I’ll be in your care.”

“”Okay.””

Perhaps my internal conflict showed on my face but the two of them looked at each other and replied in sync while nodding with a smile.

I replied with a nod and we followed after Orford-san.

Looking at the floor plan of the Magic Guild Headquarters, with that simple reception area as the center, the building was split into east west north and south sections.

The south section houses the magic circles that connects to the various countries, the west where we were currently heading towards has the canteen and the accommodations, the east has shops and the library while the north houses the classrooms for the Magic Guild.

Apparently, without a certain degree of authority, one cannot go up the stairs behind the simple reception area.

For that reason, there was a conspicuous blank space on the map.

Following the stairs down, the research facilities become more unpleasant but it seemed like there was also entry inspections every ten days.

While thinking about that, we walked towards the canteen at the west side but I had a sense of incongruity.

“I have a question, why is it that we have not passed anyone by?”

It was written that to prevent pointless conflict between countries, their respective canteens and accommodations were placed on different floors.

Even so, not to mention bumping into the researchers and magicians who supposedly come here from various countries, we did not even encounter any staffs.

“That’s natural since we came through a route whereby we won’t bump into anybody. You also do not wish to encounter people as much as possible right?”

“So that was why. Thank you for your consideration.”

“Fo, fo, fo. That was just a joke. This is a dedicated floor for the Saint Schull Allied Nations but these few decades there has not been anyone who came here. There are also no staffs.”

I was becoming worried about various things.

And buildings would deteriorate quickly if nobody stays in them

...

But it's the most desirable scenario for the management side.

"... Since there's no meaning in allocating staffs to a place where nobody comes to."

"Fumu. Well, it was quite difficult when I told Pope-sama that about ten years ago."

"... I see."

I felt slightly sympathetic seeing his melancholic air and I decided to stop prying any further.

Then, the canteen we passed through was wide enough for about 30 people to use but a problem cropped up there.

"Luciel-dono, actually, all the equipment and food for cooking are present here but ..."

It looked like it was somewhat hard for him to say so I tried asking.

"What's wrong? I'll do whatever I'm capable of though?"

"Oo I see. Actually, we don't have anyone who can cook here."

"... Did you not hire any cooking staff?"

“Umu. There were rumors going around that the Saint Schull Allied Nations where the Healer’s Guild originate from does not think well of the Magic Guild ...”

“Don’t tell me because of those rumors?”

“Umu. I mentioned earlier but there have not been any visitors from the Saint Schull Allied Nations to Nelldal.”

It’s an event that happened half a century ago but as expected, the appearance of a labyrinth in the church affected various aspects.

But, if it is a workplace that staffs don’t wish to work at, it usually won’t come with no demerits.

” ... Perhaps at that timing, there was a salary cut for people who got injured and went for assessments and their promotion was shelved?”

“Good job coming up with that. That’s exactly what happened.”

“That’s to be expected. So it was all because of bad timing huh?”

Orford-san looked at me and nodded in admiration but the same thing probably happens no matter what era or what world it is.

But even if the staffs submitted requests for transfer, would they be able to transfer just like that?

I sensed some kind of ill intent but I felt that he would definitely not tell me even if I asked.

Well, for the Saint Schull Allied Nations at that time, the Holy attribute magic was being manipulated by the other attributes, the Paladins who are said to have high ability were in conflict with the Priest Knights and the absolute power balance was about to be toppled so it's not surprising that some countries would make their move.

Thinking about that, it also links with the time period when the Healer's Guild disappeared from Ienith.

Well, I seriously hoped that it was merely a coincidence though ...

I switched thoughts and asked about what to do for the meal.

I'm fine with making it myself and the two of them seem to be alright with it too as it seemed like they have come to like cooking too.

“Is it alright if we make our own meals?”

“I'll be grateful if you do that. The food ingredients themselves are decades old but the food cabinet is similar to a magic bag so

since the time has been stopped, there shouldn't be any problems.”

Please introduce to me anybody who would use those ingredients after listening to that remark.

However, if the ingredients are from half a century ago, there might be something that can surprise Grulga-san and Granz-san.

” ... I'm a little hungry so I'll cook from tomorrow onwards.”

After saying that, I took out ready-made cooking from my item bag and I saw Nadia and Lydia gave relieved expressions.

“Hou. That looks quite tasty.”

” ... You can have a bite if you want to.”

“Really? Then I'll join you for your meal.”

I once again wondered if this person who ate together with us like it was natural was really the guildmaster of the Magic Guild Headquarters.

Thus, after we came to the canteen and the four of us had our meals, we then moved to our accommodations.

“We also keep this place clean but it has not been used for a long

time. Naturally, the rooms are separated by gender so please rest assured.”

” ... Why did you say that while looking at me?”

“For some reason or another.”

It can't be helped that I felt irritated looking at his teasing smile.

“Which reminds me, won't the beds and stuff be stiff after such a long time has passed?”

“All of them would have been changed whenever the time for replacement came so you don't have to worry about that.”

“I see.”

They were maintaining it properly so that they can't be criticized.

The room we were led to were 1LDK rooms. (TL: Basically a studio apartment.)

It had a simple kitchen and dining room, a spacious living room and a bedroom.

“It's more spacious than the room I use in the church.”

“I’m glad to hear that. Well then, the basic introduction to the Magic Guild ends here.”

“Thank you. Incidentally, how do we get out of the guild? I’d like to exit the Magic Guild and visit the towns to the east west north and south once.”

“That’s right~ Well, I’ll come along for the first time. Fundamentally, eccentric people gather in Nelldal so it might be slightly tough for first-timers.”

“Okay. Please let me know when you have decided on the schedule. I believe from today on, I’ll be coming and going to the Magic training ground and Magic Archive.”

“Fumu. Please make sure to prepare honey mead for me.”

Leaving with that remark, Orford-san went home.

I told the remaining two people the plan for the future.

“We’ll move according to what I told Orford-san just now. Well, we’re probably being monitored and Orford-san can change his appearance so we might not have a chance to feel at ease.”

“Perhaps it might be good to think of some kind of countermeasure?”

“Coping with unknown magic would be difficult.”

The two of them were serious but it was soothing to me.

“In the event he comes to collect information ... ”

Thus, going with that feeling, we decided on some simple signs as measures.

“”Understood.””

“Once I’ve finished investigating what I want to investigate, we’ll visit the Magic Guild’s courtyard but please be prepared for battle then.”

“”Yes.””

The two of them replied without asking anything.

While feeling thankful for the two of them, since there was nothing to do in the afternoon, I once again head towards the Magic Archive.

Chapter 176: Value Varies From Person To Person

After arriving at the Magic Archive, for now, I decided to systematically read all the books that interest me from one end to the other ... or that was the enthusiasm I had but the books that interest me were few and far between.

” ... I still do not understand what exactly is the reason why this place is called the Magic Archive.”

Even though there were books like ‘The correct way to brew black tea’, ‘How to care for planted trees’, and even a series of books of attempts to use various kinds of ores to create OO, the crucial books related to magic was extremely scarce.

And yet the magic books present were only beginner and intermediate level books and rather than call them books, they were merely a collection of several research papers compiled together with a cover attached to them.

“Even the relevant ones are just research papers ... is this kind of neglect excusable? Or did Orford-san think that I was a hindrance ... and set me up since the time he brought me here?”

“I don’t think that is true. There should definitely be something useful among all this.”

“That’s right. Even if Orford-san hated you, no matter how much

he hates you, there should be some kind of a clue somewhere.”

Having heard my mutterings, the two of them gave me encouragement.

“Lydia, could you please not say that I am hated so many times consecutively? Since it’s pretty painful mentally. Leaving that aside, did the two of you noticed anything or sensed anything about Orford-san or the Magic Guild?”

I felt that he did not look angry as far as I could tell but the two of them told me while having troubled expressions.

“There wasn’t anything in particular but Luciel-sama has taught us something during the course of our training.”

“Nothing that is done is a waste, stacking up hard work is the best shortcut to success.”

Following Nadia, Lydia also smiled as she nodded.

But I didn’t have any recollection of saying something like that and to begin with, I have not done anything while traveling with them.

“Did I say something like that?”

I was probably making a strange expression.

The two of them laughed as they saw my expression and told me.

“No, it was through your actual battles. Regardless of whether it is a spar with Broad-sama and Lionel-sama or a battle against monsters, you taught us to not give up and to persevere.”

“Because for a Healer to acquire such a level of combat techniques, it was definitely not gained overnight. Furthermore, with such a large number of books here, a method to regain Luciel-sama’s ability must definitely be hidden somewhere within.”

It’s possible that Orford-san hid all the important materials but the worth of an object varies from person to person.

I decided to believe in that.

I wanted to convey my thanks but for some reason I became shy.

” ... Thank you.”

Even though I have been fine all along, it felt like I suddenly returned to my adolescence days and I was extremely embarrassed.

However, at the same time, I also felt that I was feeling very happy for some reason but I totally had no idea why.

“Our ability may be poor but please allow us to aid you so let’s do

our best and think of this as training.”

“If it’s Luciel-sama who has the courage to stand up against the Evil God, you would definitely accomplish your goal.”

The words from the two of them permeated into my chest.

It seems like I’m a simple man.

My motivation was overflowing from receiving support from the opposite sex.

“Thank you, the two of you. And please lend me your strength.”

“”Yes!””

Thus I obtained the cooperation of the two of them and we began fishing through the materials.

Nadia was to investigate regarding attributes, Lydia on chants and I thoroughly investigated the materials regarding magical power and the structure of magic.

We wrote whatever that was of interest onto a piece of parchment and the three of us would discuss it later.

There were many books that were a waste of time to read.

I was feeling optimistic from Nadia and Lydia's words but after continuing to look at words after a long time, I ended up becoming sleepy.

"No matter how motivated I am, the fact that the hint is hidden somewhere is ..."

Suddenly, a book caught my eye.

My attention was not caught by a book regarding magical power or magic but a paper that earnestly researched on only the ability to raise physical ability in one go.

By circulating magical power within the body at high speeds, it not only strengthens the body but also raises all statuses.

However, it has similar recoil as forcibly drawing out such strength so it is not something that ordinary people can utilize extensively.

"This information came a little too late. So it means that since I've lost my Healing Magic, it is no longer acceptable for me to strengthen my body."

While tsukkomi-ing at the paper, I continued reading further and easily discovered a hint.

Instead of circulating the magical power within the body like mentioned previously, they also apparently did some experiments on utilizing the magical power from outside the body.

I was curious about the outcome so I turned the page and what I saw were plenty of words like ‘failure’, ‘loss’ and ‘explosion’ but successful examples were also described among all that.

“A successful example was when the magical power was dense to the extent that it was visible to others but even with that, there was no physical strengthening ... eh?”

The conclusion was that while it is possible to interfere with magical powers that does not belong to oneself, no matter how well a person can interfere with it, the only variable that changes is how much a person can interfere depending on the skill level of magical power manipulation.

However, there was a remark saying to research the casting of attributed magic by individuals who possess no attributes.

“To use magic even without the attributes, is it referring to casting the magic through magic tools?”

I immediately scrambled for the continuation volume for that book series but after looking through the archive, I could not find it at all.

“It’s either hidden or perhaps the thesis was not evaluated and

did not obtain research funding?”

It would be a waste of time to gather the books indefinitely so, after praying to the gods, I went to pick up whichever collections that caught my interest like before.

“Er Luciel-sama, what is with that mountain of books?”

After that, I began thoroughly gathering all the books that interested me.

I replied Nadia’s question with just a smile.

” ... Moreover, there are even books not related to magic ... what happened?”

But Lydia’s remark that had a hint of saying that my mind has perhaps gone mad was slightly saddening.

“Just now, when I was investigating, I found information that was useful. It was from a book that somehow caught my eye. I tried looking through all the other books which the titles attracted me but they were all useless.”

“So you are only gathering books that catch your attention?”

” ... It’s not that I don’t understand but that amount is slightly too much.”

The two of them were shocked but they did not criticize my strategy.

They probably did not find any useful or noticeable information on their side.

” ... I was overjoyed because I found a hint. Well, this is not an amount that I can look through in one go. But I believe that it’s definitely better to look through these instead ...”

When I calmed down, I realized that it was not an amount that can be read in one sitting.

For doing something like that unconsciously, my embarrassment was welling up.

“That’s good to hear. But, I’ve not gotten anything from my side.”

“Me neither.”

The two of them commented in passing but it felt to me that they were slightly tired so I suggested to take a tea break.

“Maybe the two of you should take a rest. The food and drinks here should probably be free so maybe you should return to your rooms to rest.”

“Luciel-sama, do you have any problems with regard to today’s meal?”

Lydia asked in doubt.

Now that she mentioned it, there’s the preparation of food too.

I still had not seen the items inside the warehouse so today would probably be ready-made food too.

“Yeah. Since I still have plenty of ready-made food.”

“If that’s the case then I’ll continue. Since it looks like I can freely use more magic even as a Spirit-user.”

“My job is a Swordswoman so I had given up on magic but I will work hard for the sake of my goal.”

The two of them said that and returned to their work.

While thinking that the two of them might be trying a little too hard, I decided to flip through all the books.

“Instead of tea, I’ll give you two some sweets.”

“”Sweets!?””

Perhaps the two of them wanted some sugar but they immediately approached me.

Their speed was amazing so I was slightly taken aback.

“Ye, yeah. It’s a trial product made using honey but I had not had the chance to eat them.”

“”Thank you!””

The twins Nadia and Lydia synchronously placed the honey sweets in their mouths and were instantaneously healed, showing extremely content smiles.

Looking at those faces, I suddenly remembered falling in love with two people in my previous life.

Then, to hide my rapidly beating heart, I put the honey sweet into my mouth.

I could not hide my confusion from all my various kinds of desire that have been surfacing due to having lost my Healer job.

Chapter 177: Premonition

By the time I took a pause from copying down everything I researched, the day had already completely turned dark.

“Two of you, thank you for your hard work. We’ll stop here for today and let’s get dinner.”

“”Okay.””

After replying, Nadia held both her hands up and stretched while Lydia collapsed on the desk.

The collections that I carried over numbered over 50 in total but the books that had useful information were all the ones that I picked up using my gut feeling.

The information I obtained were not gathered from a single location but were all found here and there in bits and pieces so it took a tremendous amount of time.

“It’s bothersome to head down to the canteen so is it fine if we have our dinner in my rooms?”

“”Alright.””

It’s the same no matter where we ate and the two of them immediately agreed to it after I gave the suggestion.

“For now, let’s return the books to their original locations. It would be troublesome if they found fault with us later.”

“I don’t believe they would go that far but okay.”

“It’s so saddening to be unconditionally hated despite not having done anything wrong.”

“Yeah. Well, think of it as performing the job of a librarian. Let’s do our best and I’ll take out honey water later for our meal.”

“Let’s quickly tidy up.”

“I’m motivated now.”

Since they happily cleaned up, I also began tidying up.

I temporarily kept all the parchments they summarized the information on.

Because I did not want someone to complain about the work the two of them went through all the trouble to search.

Since we used our heads after a long time, I decided to have something with volume for today’s dinner.

We did not encounter anybody along the way until our rooms and the sounds of our footsteps resounded awfully loudly so the corridor was slightly spooky at night.

Thankfully, the lights were lit so I didn't feel afraid.

“Do you two sense it?”

“Yes. There's three of them.”

“My magic is already prepped for casting.”

Immediately after we left the Magic Archive, the magical powers that were supposed to be nearby flickered and disappeared but they could not hide something crucial, their presences.

While walking, I continued the conversation.

“Since I don't sense any kind of malice from them, I basically do not mind ignoring them. What do the two of you think?”

“No problem. The training was only two months but I'm surprised by the amount of proficiency you obtained.”

“Something like that shouldn't be a problem. It might be an order from Orford-san to monitor us.”

The two of them were not worked up at all and looked like they could deal with it anytime.

“Then, I’ll basically ignore them ... oh, we’ve already arrived.”

I saw the room that was assigned to me and it happened as I was about to open the door to the room.

“Er, excuse me. Are you two by any chance Nadia and Lydia from the Bacray Viscount house?”

A woman from the three individuals we noticed called out to us.

The two behind her were also female and it appeared that they follow the woman who spoke.

The three of them looked to be about 20 years of age.

“Elinas-sama from the Meinrich Earl house, long time no see.”

“Elinas-sama, long time no see.”

It seemed like she was an acquaintance of the two of them as they bowed deferentially but I greeted her with only a nod.

Maybe that displeased them as the two aides behind wanted to voice their complaints but Elinas restrained them with her hand.

“Why have the two of you come here?”

She only spoke to the two of them without even looking at me but I guess that was probably the behavior of nobles.

I could tell that she was too obsessed with elitism and lacked prudence.

Judging from the conversation, she was probably a lady from the noble class in the Principality of Blange.

If she came from the Principality of Blange, she would be a noble that possess the power to ask for an audience with the king but an Earl house might be an excellent house that towers above the others.

“We are studying various subjects alongside Luciel-sama who saved our lives.”

“Moreover, we have already abandoned the country and we are now adventurers. More importantly, I’ve come to know for the first time how rude Elinas-sama is.”

The two of them were certainly angry at the woman who ignored me.

The woman and her followers completely stiffened as they did

not expect the two of them to say such words.

She was slightly nervous when she called out to them before so maybe she called out to them when she saw them because she was impatient for having not been able to produce results in the Magic Guild?

After thinking up to that point, the two followers would probably behave recklessly ... and to prevent that, the woman grabbed the hands of her followers.

And it was hard to believe but she apologized for what happened earlier.

” ... Please forgive me for my rudeness. I am Elinas Meinrich, the second daughter of Ricarus von Meinrich, the feudal lord of the northeast region of the Principality of Blange.”

She performed a greeting with an elegant curtsy by holding both ends of her skirt.

” ... That’s very polite of you. I am Luciel from the Church Headquarters of the Saint Schull Allied Nations.”

I also introduced myself and gave a simple bow but I saw their expressions stiffen after I did that.

Moreover, it was all three of them.

” ... Are you all alright?”

“Per, perhaps, you are that Luciel-sama who attained the rank of S-class Healer for the first time in decades?”

“Well, yes. I’m currently only 21 years old though.”

After my reply, it looked like even the two followers who had their arms held since just now were excited as well and they questioned me.

“That Luciel-sama who accomplished the title of Dragon Slayer despite being a Healer?”

Just that phrase alone gave me mental damage. I was uneasy and had no idea how that nickname reached Blange but I was too afraid to ask.

“Did you come to Nelldal to heal somebody?”

” ... No, although I have learned Holy Attribute Magic, I have the aptitude for other attributes so I created the opportunity to study magic in Nelldal.”

Rather than that, I’d like it if they mentioned more about the nicknames.

But my thoughts did not get through to them.

“That’s right! Luciel-sama, would you like to have dinner together at our dining hall?”

Elinas offered as if to say it was a good idea.

But to us who had continually read books all day, this high energy level was ... painful.

Moreover, it was conceivable that it was a trap.

“It’s an honor to be invited by a daughter of the Earl family. Thank you. However, I’m sorry but we just only arrived today so we have a lot of work to be done piled up. So is it all right we have a meal when we have settled down?”

That’s why I refused her offer this time.

It was hard to watch their delighted faces gradually become downhearted but I hardened my heart.

“I understand. If that’s the case, I’ll invite you another day. Nadia, Lydia, let’s take our time to talk next time.”

Elinas said and left via the corridor.

But I could not hear any sound of footsteps so it was probably either their equipment or they were using magic.

“Well then, we’ll be having our meal so come on in.”

” ... That was nerve-wracking. Since Elinas-sama has been called a genius since our time as nobles.”

“Compared to the Evil God, it was not frightening at all.”

Maybe she was feeling pressured because she’s known as a genius magician. But I was bothered by why Lydia would compare her against the Evil God.

“She probably won’t be able to come here without the permission of the kind so she might be shouldering the expectations of her country. Besides that, Lydia, why did you compare the Evil God against her?”

” ... I met her once when my Spirit-user job manifested but she laughed at me saying ‘You can’t cast magic without begging the Spirits huh.’ so I don’t really like her.”

“Hm. Understood. Sorry for making you recall unpleasant memories.”

Then, I opened the lock to the room and entered.

The room was pitch black but when I pressed the switch, the lighting tools all lit up at once and it became bright.

While feeling emotional like I had returned to my previous world with the presence of objects like a switch that can dim the lights, I began preparing the meal.

Though it's just taking out the dishes and serving them in portions ...

While having our meal, I told them our planned schedule for tomorrow.

“Let's begin our day tomorrow by organizing the dining hall. We will practice magic after we are done with that. In the afternoon, we will continue what we've done today, scrutinize the information in the Magic Archive and gather useful information.”

“” ... Yes.””

Worried about their absent-minded replies, I asked them further.

“Do you two feel unwell somewhere? Or do you wish to change the schedule?”

But the reason for their absent-mindedness was a more particular reason.

“Luciel-sama, this honey water is strange.”

“I cannot accept that this is honey water.”

It seemed like Nadia and Lydia had complaints regarding the honey water.

” ... What do you mean? This is honey water as far as I know.”

Then, the two of them started trembling.

I don't know any other honey water other than that so I had no choice but to be puzzled.

“Do you know the extent of the value of something like this? What is with this deliciousness.”

“I feel overflowing magical power. This is absolutely not honey water.”

The two of them just stared at the emptied cups that held the honey water without moving.

” ... Would you like more?”

“”Yes, please!””

Then, the two of them endlessly lectured me on just how valuable the honey water I offered them just now was.

For this amount of events to happen on the very first day I arrived at Nelldal, I foresaw that various more occurrences would definitely happen from tomorrow onwards and I would have no choice but be dragged into them so I fell into a melancholic mood.

Chapter 178: Attitude To Endeavor

After the harsh lecture from Nadia and Lydia regarding the honey, they returned to their rooms.

... During that time, I topped up their honey water up to five times but they had smiles on their faces from the beginning until the end so it also helped me.

“But, it’s really unexpected. I would never have guessed that the honey water I provided them had recovery ability comparable to that of middle-grade magical power potions. Would it actually have been better if I sold the honey I left with Orford-san?”

Well, originally I would have needed to bring gifts but I did not have the presence of mind to do so at that time so it’s great that I could cover it with what I had in my possession.

I thought as I washed the dishes.

As expected of something thought up by Sir Rainstar, the place came complete with a water supply system and not only that, it even had a toilet and a bath.

Moreover, it was not a [unit bath](#). The toilet and bathroom were separate rooms.

(TL: Unit baths or system baths are unique(?) to Japanese housing. It is basically a prefabricated module that comes with a sink, bathtub and toilet bowl made from one continuous material

so it is easy to install and less prone to leakage.)

I felt like I had to thank him for being so fastidious about maintaining the quality when he built Nelldal.

After I had a leisurely soak in the bath, I rehydrated myself with honey water, laid on my bed and began looking through the materials Nadia and Lydia gathered.

Firstly, it was Nadia's gathered information on attributes but although it was summarized with beautiful writing, there wasn't any new information.

Next, it was the chants Lydia researched on. She wrote about how magic would not be invoked if the wrong wording is used in the chants.

However, that was the only new information and after that, similar to Nadia, there wasn't any other new information.

"Well, no matter how hard we ponder, without hitting a good idea, we won't be able to connect the information to any hints."

I reluctantly proceeded to look through the information I summarized.

If magic is broken down to their mechanisms, it can be divided into magical power attribute, magical power amount and magical power conversion.

Attribute just refers to the attribute, magical power amount refers to the amount of magical power that can be poured in, and magical power conversion is apparently how well the introduced magical power can be redirected into the form of the magic spell.

“Even though one possesses the attribute and can infuse magical power, is it difficult because the person can’t convert the magical power? Then why is it possible to utilize magic without any chants? Would a person not be able to utilize magic using No Chant if it is the first time the person sees the magic?”

I once again looked at the information Lydia gathered but for the topic of No Chant, it’s described to be for magic that has been invoked more than once before.

But there was a tiny remark stating that there have been factual records whereby an individual was capable of using No Chant in the rare case where the mental image was perfect.

“That’s not helpful ... eh? But when I succeeded in developing magic, I’m certain that ...”

It happened just recently but I completely forgot that I developed Sanctuary Barrier and Sanctuary Armor myself.

Hoping to survive even if I encounter the Evil God, I imitated the chant for Sanctuary Circle.

The method that succeeded was when it was as if I was addressing the world, while having a mental image of the completed form of the magic, I felt the magical power within my body convert the magical power outside my body.

Naturally, I did not succeed the first time, I altered the chant countless times and sharpened the image.

But I forgot why did I do it that way. Was it written somewhere when I was learning Holy Attribute Magic?

“If I regain that sensation ... ah, I’m feeling a little tired. I didn’t expect that depending on the way of doing it, it might have been possible to become the strongest magician ... though my condition now is that not to mention invoking any magic attribute, I can’t even pour magical power in despite having the aptitude for the attribute ...”

Looking at this result, instead of having those two continue researching for me, it might be better to let them absorb something by reading whichever book they like.

In the end, I believe that I would one day be able to once again use Healing Magic if I can develop something like the magic tool I had an idea of at the start so deciding that I will visit it if I find a laboratory for such research, I called it a day. (TL: He’s referring to the remark he read that mentioned to try researching the casting of attributed magic by individuals who possess no attributes, perhaps by using magic tools.)

The next day, after waking up, I concentrated on performing magical power manipulation and control as usual.

Then, I heard a knocking sound when it was still early in the morning.

“Is it Nadia or Lydia? Or ...”

I looked towards the entrance and heard Orford-san’s voice.

“Luciel-dono, are you awake?”

“Yes.”

When I opened the door, I saw Orford-san hugging a bunch of parchment.

“Oo! Luciel, morning.”

“Good morning, Orford-san. What brings you here this early in the morning?”

“Not much~ after seeing Luciel-dono and the others work so hard for magic training at the training ground yesterday, I wanted to help too. Moreover, after receiving such high-quality honey, I would receive punishment if I don’t do my part.”

Orford-san said and passed me dozens of parchments.

After receiving them, I lightly passed my eyes over them and saw that they were written in closely packed letters.

” ... What kind of materials are these?”

“I worked out the analysis and measures as to why the three of you can’t use magic.”

He had the usual frank smile as yesterday but his complexion was slightly pale.

” ... Did you only watch and not give guidance yesterday because you had something in mind?”

“Umu. Because you looked like you were slightly impatient. Furthermore, it’s not possible to confirm the abilities and personalities of the three of you by just watching you all for a short period of time.”

Just a cursory glance of the bundle of parchments he passed to me told me that there were about 50 of them.

It was easy to imagine the amount of time that had to be spent to write that amount.

While I don’t believe everything, I thought that this person

might apparently be a good person.

” ... Incidentally, do you know of any methods to utilize Holy Attribute Magic without possessing an aptitude for the Holy Attribute?”

“That’s an interesting thought. Certainly, such technology exists and something similar to what you want can be found among the magic tools that can even be bought from the streets. However, it would likely not be able to cast Luciel-dono’s magic.”

” ... Is it because of the Holy Attribute magic stones? Or are there other factors?”

Holy Attribute magic stones would probably be top of the line items.

But, life is not that simple.

“Both. I’ve not heard of any Holy Attribute magic stones. Even if there are, you would only be able to engrave a single magic spell into it.”

” ... As expected, it won’t go so smoothly.”

“It’s quite an interesting idea so I’ll try to see if the research laboratory can develop a magic tool capable of assigning attributes. A day might come when Luciel-dono’s wish comes true.”

... Is it just my imagination that he's like a completely different person compared to yesterday? Did the magical power from the honey reignite Orford-san's passion towards magic?

As I was having such foolish thoughts, Nadia and Lydia came by.

“”Luciel-sama, Orford-sama, good morning.””

“Ah, morning. Orford-san wrote down his analysis and measures regarding our magic yesterday for both your portions and mine as well.”

“”Thank you very much.””

“Fo fo fo. I didn't really dislike doing it so don't mind it.”

He said and laughed but we could only reply with strained laughter.

“I'm not really doing this as an apology but do you want to have breakfast together with us? I'll provide honey water.”

“?! By all means, please allow me to join you!”

Looking at how Orford-san suddenly become full of energy, I couldn't help but think that honey was more effective against this person compared to Object X.

After we changed location to the dining hall, similar to yesterday's breakfast, I took out the ready-made food from my magic bag and lined them up.

I could have made it on the spot but taking Orford-san's physical condition into consideration, I decided that it would be better to finish breakfast sooner and let him retire to his room.

As a result, Orford-san left looking satisfied after having his breakfast.

He said that he would show up at the training ground like yesterday after taking a nap.

"Now, after we organize the food warehouse, we'll read the information we've received at the Magic Archive. We'll have special magic training at the training ground in the afternoon."

"So he was actually a caring elder."

"And we thought that we were hated."

"Well, we don't know to what extent is the truth so let's remain vigilant."

"Yes."

After entering the kitchen and cleaning the dishes, it was finally time to open the food warehouse.

“I wonder how exactly do the food ingredients decades ago look like?”

“It would be great if the smell isn’t horrible.”

It looked like the two of them could not suppress their curiosity and I couldn’t help but laugh when I looked at their nervous appearances as they stared at the food warehouse door.

“It’s terrible of you to laugh at us.”

“Luciel-sama, don’t just laugh, please open it.”

“Sorry I couldn’t help it. Then, I’ll be opening it.”

A world different from what I had imagined came into sight when I opened the heavy doors to the food warehouse.

Chapter 179: Traces Left In The Food Storehouse

Since it was a food warehouse that was said to stop time like a magic bag, I naturally imagined it was one of three choices, either a cool and dark place like a pantry or warehouse or even a dark vortex where you thrust your hand into.

But it was different from my expectations.

“Dra, dragon!!”

The moment I opened the door, a blue dragon was facing our direction.

I unsheathed my Illusionary Sword by conditioned reflex but Nadia stopped me from behind.

“Luciel-sama, that dragon is already dead.”

After hearing that, I calmed down to look and saw that the dragon was lightly floating. Rather, there wasn't only the dragon, there were various monsters floating about as if in outer space.

” ... Was what I opened really a food warehouse?”

“We won't know without checking further but aren't they all edible monsters?”

“Can we do nothing but to wait for death if we mistakenly get trapped inside here?”

“No, it’s written that this place can’t be closed if there are people inside.”

A brand new piece of paper was stuck on the inside of the door.

Written on it was a note that said that the place is set to not close in the event that a living individual with the base race of human is within.

” ... It would be alright if that is true. But, entering here is a bit ...”

I was hesitant to enter that void space.

Nadia guessed so as she removed the hand that was grabbing me and entered the food warehouse.

“Hey, we’re still investigating so it’s dangerous!”

As expected, I can’t let her go into such an unknown room alone.

“It’s all right. I’ll roughly find out what’s where, get a grasp of the place and return.”

“Ah, I’ll go too. Luciel-sama, just in case, please wait here.”

Lydia entered the food warehouse with a smile.

I decided to teach Lydia the proverb – the curiosity killed the cat, once she comes back.

I had no choice but to keep watch over the door as I was instructed to but while my attention was grabbed by the floating monsters, there seemed to be several rooms at the back.

But it would be dangerous if all three of us entered so I had no choice but to leave the search of the inside to the two of them and I read through the materials I received from Orford-san.

“I see. That state whereby the body is clad with magical power is the same as discharging magical power out huh.”

It was written that the steam-like magical power that can be observed is in a state of being held back as it leaves the body.

“If I raise my magical power endurance, it seems possible that I would be alright even if I face off against an opponent that casts magic. Eh? But if that’s the case, then why do I pour my magical power into the Illusionary Cane? I feel that it is somehow important to channel magical power into weapons though ...”

Just as I had that thought, the two of them came out from within the food warehouse with excited looks.

And the two of them were carrying a Big Boar.

“What happened, the two of you look quite pleased? Moreover that Big Boar ... isn't it overly large?”

I have hunted and eaten Big Boars before but this one was two times larger.

“Luciel-sama, there are plenty of monsters here that we've never seen before. I also thought that this was a Big Boar but it is actually the phantom Big Pork which existence could not be confirmed for decades.”

Why is it called pork? Or rather, why is this a pig? In this world, pigs should refer to Orcs.

” ... I am not really familiar with ecology but is this Big Pork the ancestor of Orcs or Big Boars?”

“There are various theories around but it's said that the organisms transformed after a long time due to their environment.”

“It is also written in the monster book that it is similar to Big Boar in the sense that it is not aggressive, has a timid personality and has extremely strong wariness.”

“I see ... I have seasonings so it is possible to dismantle it and store it in my magic bag but ... unfortunately, I can't use purification magic.”

When I said that, they clearly showed disappointed expressions.

But I was hesitant to dirty such a clean kitchen with the blood from dismantling.

If I knew beforehand, it would have been great if I brought along a Healer but that's impossible with the limit to the number of people I could bring.

” ... We'll eat it after I regain my Holy Attribute Magic. There seem to be various other rare ingredients but we'll postpone it all. Then, I'll take a look around too so please watch the door.”

“” ... Yes.””

The two of them sent me off downheartedly.

When I turned around and entered the food warehouse, I felt my body enter weightlessness.

“Is, isn't this bad?”

For some reason, my sense of security disappeared just because I

left the surface.

How did the two of them freely move about in this place?

When I tried hard to go forward, I started moving straight forward like normal.

“Eh? So it’s possible to move with the power of intention!”

I felt euphoric from that sense of freedom but then I realized the two of them didn’t immediately come out after entering.

That meant that time passes here when the door is open so I quickly moved to the rooms at the back.

“I feel like I’m flying.”

It felt like the moment to say those customary words as I seemed to be floating.

For some reason, there were seasonings placed in the third room to the right.

Not to mention soy sauce and miso, there was quite a considerable stock including sugar, salt, and even pepper.

” ... Were the ones who made these the Magic Guild staff? Clearly

... no way.”

It was such a rare chance so, for tasting, I took and stored the soy sauce and miso in my magic bag in separate earthenware pots.

Other than that, there was also ketchup sauce and mayonnaise stock for some reason.

” ... I don’t know how much effort and time must have been spent to make so much ketchup sauce but the fact that not much has decreased means that ...”

I silently left that room and moved to the center room.

Then, when I opened the door, I saw a huge stock of vegetables.

” ... This is not an ordinary amount. Well, the world can’t be saved even with this amount. Though it might be enough for a person to live for decades or centuries ...”

Even though it’s a different era, after coming to know of Sir Rainstar’s existence, I ended up thinking ‘Isn’t he capable of solving all the problems?’

And I also ended thinking that in the era when he was still alive, he was most probably seen as a local god-like existence?

Even though he was continually subjected to pressure all the

time, he could still turn up with results so he was probably a heroic existence.

While having such thoughts, I stored a couple of vegetables in my magic back and I had no problems since there were almost no vegetables that I didn't know.

“Now then, let's go to the last room.”

And I was shocked when I opened the last room.

“Why is there a jungle in the middle of a room?”

Paula created a pseudo-sun underground in Ienith but the level here was fundamentally different.

Firstly, a pseudo-space was created and stabilized using Space-time magic. Even if the person who created the room was a reincarnated individual, I wondered why did he make a jungle appear in the room.

When I entered the room, I saw several fruits that could already be harvested.

“This was not made by Sir Rainstar. Only Elves can make trees grow to this extent. If that's the case, there's a high chance that it was the Pope's mother who made this. Maybe I should take something back as a souvenir for Pope-sama when I return?”

It was when I was about to return after looking around.

A golden fruit suddenly entered my sight and behind it, I noticed a small tree and when I approached it, I saw a pure white fruit similar to the shape of an apple growing on it.

” ... A fruit that somehow has more presence than a golden fruit, it looks like it might be of help to me. It would be a misstep if it is a poison apple but poison is ineffective against me so I’ll try eating it later.”

After harvesting the pure white fruit and storing it in my magic bag, I channeled magical power into the tree I pluck the fruit from.

Doing so, I felt my magical power decrease just slightly and while soaking in my own self-satisfaction, I left the food warehouse.

“Luciel-sama, you were inside for quite some time.”

“Did you discover something inside?”

I don’t know what kind of ingenious method they used but the Big Pork was already dismantled and the edible portion was separated from the other portions.

Even though they dissected it, for there to not be a single drop of blood, I could only think that they perfectly performed an

extraordinary blood draining process.

Even though our conversation leaned towards the direction to not dismantle it, did they want to eat the Big Pork that badly?

I almost sighed from how much the women in this world love sweet things and meat.

They cleanly finished the dismantling and I could not think of any complaints so I decided to answer their questions.

“I gathered seasonings, vegetables and one pure white fruit.”

“Did the pure white fruit look delicious?”

“No, it’s just like a poison apple but I have resistance to poison so I wanted to try eating it. Would you like to try?”

“”No thanks.””

The two of them decline in harmony.

While looking at their ordinary reactions, we were able to confirm that the food warehouse was well-stocked to an extraordinary degree.

For that reason, I decided to cook here from now onward.

We all thought about the menu for lunch and dinner together.

I definitely want it grilled with ginger and have miso soup with pork and vegetables ... but it was also hard to discard the thought of pork shabu so I thought about that as we moved towards the Magic Archive.

When we arrived at the Magic Archive, the three-person group from yesterday was waiting for our arrival.

“Good morning. Um, Meinrich-san.”

“Good morning, Luciel-sama. You may call me Elinas.”

“I see, so, how can I help you?”

“I’ve reached a slight impasse so I wish to request for your help.”

“I’m sorry but at the moment I have an order from Pope-sama so I have to prioritize that. Please allow me to decline.”

I said and was about to pass through their side when Elinas-san muttered something.

I turned back to look at Nadia and Lydia but they had suddenly stopped with astonished expressions.

I couldn't catch what she said so I asked her.

It would be disastrous if she told me some kind of diplomatic problem.

" ... What did you say? Sorry but I didn't catch it so could you please repeat it once again?"

When I asked, her face turned bright red and she spoke while looking like she was about to cry.

" ... I have no more money. My research funds have reached rock bottom and I can't even buy the ticket to enter the Magic Archive. So could you please lend me money?"

"Eh?"

I was shocked to hear that unexpected request.

She should be receiving monetary support from the country as long as she is here.

What does it mean if she doesn't have that?

"Shouldn't you have money transferred from your home country?"

Nadia asked in my stead.

Since it was their home country, they were probably curious about this incident.

“That ...”

As Elinas looked like she was having a hard time answering, the woman waiting behind her to the side answered.

“It has been about one year since we came to Nelldal. We have used about 10 white gold coins and the grant money that was delivered has been used up completely. We want to receive additional financing but without a single result to show ...”

I could understand even if she didn't continue.

“There should be others who came from Blange as well?”

When I asked that, the woman on the other side answered.

“The nobles in my country hold each other back so that the other person's territory does not increase so ...”

She didn't complete her sentence but I understood what she wanted to convey.

While I was troubled by what to do, Nadia and Lydia bowed their heads for some reason.

“For now, we’ll be studying inside for the morning so we can enter together this time but please discuss with Nadia and Lydia for the future.”

“Tha, thank you very much. As expected of the Apostle of the God of Healing.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“In the Principality of Blange, Luciel-sama’s name is attached to that title. You declared that you would lead the leadership of the Healer’s Guild and reform it. A person who is capable of making slave merchants and corrupt healers his enemy which can’t normally be done. There are also various other ...”

Shit, I don’t want to listen to any more.

“It’s fine. Let’s enter.”

I escaped to the Magic Archive but my stomach hurt for some reason from looking at the appearances of those five people who looked like they found it a little regretful.

Chapter 180: In Order To Regain Confidence

After we entered the Magic Archive, we separated from the three of them and I began reading the parchment where Orford-san wrote down various conjectures and points for improvements.

When I continued reading from where I left off just now, I ran into contradicting information.

Why is it that when I allow magical power to discharge out of my body, my magical power doesn't decrease? Even after taking into account the magical power recovery amount, there's no way I would have enough magical power to continue discharging it. (TL: He's referring to the previous chapter. The magic where he clad his body with magical power for protection is also the same as discharging magical power out)

Moreover, when I activate Body Strengthening, my magical power definitely decreases, albeit only a little.

There was no explanation written regarding that.

" ... It would be too convenient to wish for details to that extent."

But when I turned to the next sheet, my excitement level suddenly rose.

This was recorded in it.

In this world, people who can send flying slashes apparently exist and they apparently load the magical power within themselves into a blade to allow it to fly.

If Luciel-dono can master such flying slashes, you should be able to use a ranged attack that is considerably powerful that utilizes less magical power compared to attacking with unskilled magic.

However, it would probably require a weapon that has sufficient strength to withstand Luciel-dono's magical power and have high magical power conductivity to allow smooth magical power conversion like that cane you use.

Since I have the Illusionary sword, as long as I can examine the phenomenon of how exactly a flying slash can actually happen, I'll be able to deal long-range attacks.

It's a different issue altogether but that was the most promising information since I lost my Holy Attribute Magic.

It's the flying slash that I've seen Shisho and Lionel release countless times during training.

I couldn't help but feel excited when I thought of the possibility of me sending those flying slashes.

If it's now, I felt like I could endure whatever hardship that came my way.

When I read the materials further, I saw that he even wrote down the investigation on flying slashes.

Channel all the magical power that is discharged out into a sword and interfere with the magical power outside the body with the image of launching the sword ... written after that were technical terms so I gave up on trying to understand it.

But that slightly gave me hope for my wish to die of old age.

My goal was the revival of my Holy Attribute or Healing Magic but I took into consideration the premise that I would have to fight someday.

While supporting a bitter smile, I continued reading the materials and this time, my expression stiffened.

An aptitude in the Holy Attribute is required to change job to a Healer.

If the Healer job is not available despite having the aptitude, there is a high chance that the person is controlled by strong hate or negative feelings greater than his desire to help others.

If the Healer job is not available even after resolving that, it means that it is the fate that has been determined by the Chief God Kuraiya and the God of Healing so there is no option but to accept it.

Negative feelings that are stronger than the feeling for others and controlled by hatred ...? I don't think so.

I may even have unconsciously thought of running away the next time I encounter the Evil God.

Even so, I can confidently say that I had chosen the best option at that time and I would even like to praise myself for achieving that.

If that's the case, it might be my destiny.

... If I can't become a Healer, the only other jobs that can utilize Holy Attribute Magic are Priest, Paladin, Sage, Saintess and Hero.

Among them, the only one I have a possibility of getting used to would only be Sage.

Described on the last sheet of material was the person who became a Sage a hundred years in the past.

That person was given the blessing by all six Spirits, Light, Darkness, Fire, Water, Earth and Wind. However, it took too much of his life to raise all the magic of the basic four attributes to level X.

Then, the golden fruit that grows on the World Tree that only blooms once in a thousand years ... he ate the white fruit that grows on the Tree of Philanthropy that blooms once in a hundred years near the World Tree and the door to the Sage job was opened

to him.

However, the Sage only had a single thing to say during his later years.

He would have been able to reach the Sage job sooner if he had created the drink called Object X sooner ...

“Ha? Didn’t he make Object X after becoming a Sage?”

Nadia and Lydia looked over when I inadvertently voiced my thoughts out so I waved my hand to show that it was nothing.

I was shocked by the information of his reason for developing Object X but that means he began to belong to the Healer’s Guild after he was a Sage?

While discovering an unexpected fact, I wondered if I would receive the blessing if I went to the fountain and met the Wind Spirit.

If I acquire the blessing, I’ll proceed with the plan to eat the white fruit and reach the Sage job.

Would I really be able to use Holy Attribute Magic if my job becomes a Sage?

Such doubts and uneasiness pressed down upon me.

Feelings of doubt as to whether it was alright to just swallow all the information that Orford-san investigated for me also surfaced.

When I had that thought, I suddenly realized.

Was that wall around my heart due to my doubts the negative feelings that cause me to not be able to use Holy Attribute Magic? At the start when I was able to use Holy Attribute Magic, even though I was in denial because it looked like it would be full of hardship, I thought that it would somehow work out and thought of it from a positive aspect.

Perhaps my defensive instinct kicked in when my Holy Attribute pretense was peeled off ...

Just like my dark sales era when I couldn't sell anything ...

A negative spiral that caused me to see everything as my enemy.

I thought of my boss, seniors, colleagues and even my juniors as my enemies.

When I looked up after sighing, I saw Nadia and Lydia and muttered my favorite motto at that time.

“True strength can only be built from hard work. Luck is just a trigger, without hard work, one would not even notice an

opportunity. It is up to yourself to make use of the opportunity.”

It was my favorite motto that I made by mixing the story about luck-chan that my senior told me during the darkest period in my sales and the quote from an athlete that girl who was transferred to General Affairs told me.

It was slightly long but I always muttered it whenever I was lost after hitting a wall.

There might be times when one is seriously unlucky but an equal amount of lucky times certainly exist too.

But luck has a shy personality so it is always hiding.

For those who prepare for it by laying a foundation with steady effort, they may be able to occasionally get a glimpse of luck and opportunities will come visiting.

So all the hard work you did until now will be tested. Everyone is doing their best.

Then what is needed to achieve results? It is the confidence that you yourself have firmly done what you had to do without deviating from it.

By doing so, you gain fortitude in your heart, your outlook widens and new luck will come to you.

” ... Thinking about that, although I take pride in pouring my heart and soul into combat training, I realize that I have not done much hard work in Holy Attribute Magic apart from magic chants.”

Some degree of room might have been born in my heart since the guidepost that leads to the Sage job has appeared.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I decided to go meet the Wind Spirit after I gain confidence by deepening my knowledge in magic and attributes.

From that day, while studying hard like a student about to take a test, I continued to train my body.

Chapter 181: Divine Protection Of The God Of Destiny

About three months since the day I hardened my resolve, I had vigorously looked through the books that were untouched in the Magic Archive and accumulated various kinds of knowledge.

Even Nadia and Lydia, as if having been influenced by how I had broken through my doubts, had energetically practiced magic and have become able to invoke magic, albeit only at the elementary level.

Of course, I was also concurrently training to launch flying slashes at the training ground and I lured Orford-san to get his advice using honey but it had not led to good results on my side.

In the first place, apart from knowing that flying slash is a high-level sword skill, I do not know if there might be any other skills required.

However, mysteriously, my impatient feelings had gradually faded away.

This environment where I studied together with Nadia and Lydia was probably the safest one I had since I came to this world.

I worked hard towards my goals while the two of them cheered me on.

I wasn't lonely or rather, the two of them were working harder than I was so I also had the desire to not be outdone by them.

On a certain day within those repetitive days of training, I alone was called to the guildmaster's room.

“Excuse me.”

“Sorry for calling you over so suddenly.”

Orford-san welcomed me and we entered the mirror.

Even after taking our seats, Orford-san didn't really speak so having run out of patience, I asked about what matter he had in mind.

“Orford-san, since you suddenly wanted to speak alone with just the two of us, is there some urgent matter?”

“Fumu. Regarding the flying slash, it seems like it will be solved given some time.”

He entered the topic about training without entering the main topic so perhaps he understood something about the flying slash.

“I agree. But this is all thanks to Orford-san. Did you wish to talk because you understood something regarding the flying slash?”

“No, this time I called you to share your prized mead.”

“Eh? Don’t tell me that is the business you have with me today?”

Orford-san had not called me like this until now for three months so I took a blow to my face.

Why? That word floated above my head.

Smiling at that sight, Orford-san looked outside the window and said.

“Fumu. Tonight is a full moon so it is easier for me to make an appearance.”

Me(ore)? Hasn’t he been referring to himself as me(washi)? Was he perhaps feeling uplifted due to the full moon?

“I don’t really mind offering it to you if you only want to drink it together here ...”

“You understand me.”

Orford-san pressed me with a truly delighted smile but as gratitude for what he has done daily, I took out two glasses and filled them with mead.

“Then should we have a toast?”

“Okay.”

“”Cheers.””

Orford-san downed the mead in one go just as I was taking a sip of it.

At that instant, the mechanical sound reverberated in my head.

《Divine Protection of the Wind Spirit acquired》

“Ha?”

It was way too sudden so I was shocked stiff.

“Fo, fo, fo. Mead sure is delicious. I’d love to have seconds?”

Orford-san requested for mead as he made fun of my humorous appearance while looking like he was delighted with the success of his prank.

“Eh? Ah, okay. I’m fine with giving you seconds but Orford-san was the Wind Spirit all along?”

“No. I borrowed Orford-san’s body today.”

I was confused by his words.

Was it perhaps not the first time the Wind Spirit replaced Orford-san? My thoughts were swallowed by a vortex of confusion.

I somehow poured mead into the Wind Spirit's glass as I asked it about the matter this time.

“Erm, why did you choose this timing?”

“That's what I want to ask! Why was it that even after I secretly slipped in the information to become a Sage inside the materials from Orford, you did not appear at the fountain no matter how much time passed? You even searched the location of the fountain so did you come up with something else?”

It suddenly burst out in anger but it seemed like Spirits can write too.

While I had that thought as I escaped from reality, I told it my true reason.

” ... I did consider immediately becoming a Sage and regaining my Holy Attribute Magic when I received that hint. But I was anxious as to whether I would really once again regain my use of Holy Attribute Magic once I become a sage. So I wanted to start by regaining my self-confidence.”

” ... Well, I guessed so. Since you have received my divine protection, you have acquired the divine protection of all six Spirits. It would take a longer time to completely master all the basic attributes compared to the amount of time you took to achieve this.”

The Wind Spirit said and looked at me enchanting eyes like the abyss but I thought of a question.

“Erm, what about the white fruit?”

“It’s up to your luck once you reach the vicinity of the World Tree. However, dragons are scattered all about in the ancient forest where the World Tree is so with your current ability, you will certainly die.”

... I’d prefer not to go get it even if I have the flawless Shisho and Lionel with me.

But what exactly is that fruit I picked three months ago in the food warehouse? Was it just my own selfishness when I felt that I wanted that white fruit?

I became curious as to just how strong the previous Sage was.

He was probably not a healer originally?

One question after the other sprung up so I decided to first try asking how did the previous Sage who made Object X get the white

fruit.

” ... By the way, how did the previous Sage obtain the white fruit?”

“The pope Fluna gave it to him. Because she needed a Sage at that time.”

The Wind Spirit faced away from me and looked outside.

That profound behavior and phrasing made me extremely curious but did Pope-sama want an absolute symbol for the church or did she desire power?

I felt that it didn't want to talk anymore so I asked the point that was bothering me the most.

” ... Do you think I will be able to use Holy Attribute Magic like before if I became a Sage?”

” ... To be honest, I don't know.”

The Wind Spirit shook its head.

” ... It's described that a Sage can use all magic but is that wrong?”

“Normally, only those who dedicated their whole lives to the pursuit of magic and gained enormous knowledge can promote to the job called Sage. Since they possess the aptitudes and walk the path of magic, it can't be helped that it's thought that they can use all magic.”

It replied while looking troubled as it stroked its long beard.

Well, I could certainly imagine that it wasn't a job that could be reached easily when I heard the job title 'Sage'.

” ... In other words, it might eventually return but the path to become a Sage is long and protracted?”

“Fumu. Only individuals who have received the blessings of Gods can achieve it through another way. Moreover, you possess the divine protection of Spirits and Dragons right?”

” ... Don't tell me there are adverse effects?”

I suddenly felt uneasy like I could not breathe as I focused my hearing to not mishear anything.

Then, I could hear auditory hallucinations of the overture of despair.

“That is probably why you can't use magic attributes no matter how much you chant.”

“Ha?”

“The divine protection of dragons creates a strong physical body while the divine protection of Spirits makes it difficult to use magic apart from Spirit Magic.”

It said like it was unfortunate but for some reason, it felt like its mouth was smiling.

It was probably paranoia but I could hear the loud crumbling sounds of the collapse of my Holy Attribute Magic.

” ... Er, isn't that a dead end for me?”

“You can still become a Sage if you become a Spirit-user and master spirit magic?”

People like that can only be found in stories.

” ... Are you referring to Sir Rainstar?”

“Ho. You even knew that Rain was a Sage. Interesting.”

” ... That person is an exception. Is it even possible for me to master Spirit Magic?”

“Well, it’s normally impossible. But, don’t you have the divine protection of the God of Destiny?”

” ... Yes. But that only increases my acquisition of SP?”

I wondered why the Wind Spirit’s voice changed to a lighter tone?

Do Spirits enjoy the misfortune of others?

But, the Wind Spirit revealed unique information.

“Fofofo, that is nothing more than just a by-product. That is the greatest divine protection that is capable of severing the misfortune of the destiny that has originally been decided for you, leaving only the struggle for life.”

“Doesn’t that mean it was meaningless for me to acquire the Great Luck and Supreme Luck skills?”

Was it wrong to have placed respect in Great Luck-sensei and Supreme Luck-sensei?

But this time the Wind Spirit looked at me like it was exasperated and sighed.

“Ha~. No matter how capable the divine protection is in repelling adversity, without those two, you would have died without even

seeing the light when you fought the Evil God.”

Hearing those words, I was somewhat relieved.

“It’s great that it wasn’t a waste. Since I depend on those two skills.”

“You depend on luck in the end?”

” ... Is that weird?”

“Fofofo, I see. If it’s the hardworking you, the day you become a Sage may come some day ... fofofofo.”

Looking at the Wind Spirit laughing out loud for some reason, I decided that I would eat the white fruit I obtained when I face the dragons.

Also, I asked it about the phrase Sir Rainstar told me to shout at the fountain to meet the one who would lend me its power when I talked with him at Rockford.

“It’s a different topic but if I shouted ‘I am Wind-sama, the strongest and the fastest in the world and the one who controls the world’ at the fountain, would you have helped me?”

” Where did you hear that from?”

A heavy atmosphere fell on the Wind Spirit like it was in despair.

“At Rockford.”

” I entrusted an aerial boat to him but that Rain left behind an outrageous bomb.”

The Wind Spirit trembled before it eventually looked at me and spoke.

“I would cancel your divine protection if you say that to anybody. Not only that, I would spread rumors to the whole world that Luciel can't use magic. If you don't want that, forget that immediately.”

I could do nothing but nod due to the intense intimidation it emitted.

“Good ... Then, you can meet the Wind Dragon and Water Dragon tomorrow. You can ask about how to use the power of dragons from the dragons themselves.”

“They have not received the curse of the Evil God?”

“I've also not met them for decades but I've not felt any changes.”

“It would be great if that is true ...”

“Well then, I would be thankful if you would allow me to enjoy more mead tonight.”

The Wind Spirit said as it continued to drink the mead.

The next day, we headed for the location of the Wind Dragon and the Water Dragon.

Chapter 182: Guardians

The next day after I drank together with Orford-san ... or rather, with the Wind Spirit, while having breakfast in the cafeteria assigned for the Saint Schull Allied Nations with Nadia and Lydia, I told them the plans for the day.

“We will visit the Magic Guild fountain today. There’s a possibility of it becoming a battle for the first time in a long while so please brace yourselves.”

“We’ll be meeting the Wind Spirit right. It would be great if it grants me its power too ...”

Lydia said with a slightly nervous expression.

” ... The fact that you are asking us to prepare for battle means that there’s a chance we might encounter the dragons that maintain Nelldal in the air right. Despite holding the title Dragon Priestess, I have only received a revelation from Dragon God-sama once so I’m delighted to meet the dragons.”

“Luciel-sama, are you able to release the dragons without your Holy Attribute Magic?”

While looking at the excited Nadia, Lydia was extremely worried as she calmly assumed the situation where we would have to fight the dragons.

I could fully understand Lydia's worries and I am not as foolhardy as to stroll into the dragons' stronghold without any countermeasures.

My life hung by a thread when I fought with the Earth Dragon and the Thunder Dragon so it would likely be extremely difficult no matter how perfect my condition is if I have to face both the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon together this time.

That's why I could only pray that both the dragons have not fallen under the Evil God's curse ...

As insurance, I also calculated that the two dragons might not turn violent if I am with the Dragon Priestess Nadia.

Of course, I intend to protect them to the end if it became a battle.

That's why I must once again be capable of using Holy Attribute Magic.

I answered Lydia's question as I took out the white fruit from my magic bag.

"To be honest, I have no idea. That's why to increase that probability, I will now eat this."

Nadia gave a dubious expression when she saw the white fruit and asked.

” ... Is that apple even fit for consumption?”

“I, I’d prefer if you don’t eat that.”

Following that, Lydia distanced herself from the white fruit.

“There’s no need to run away. Well, if I’m lucky, I will probably become a Sage after eating this. I will think about it when the time comes if I don’t regain my Holy Attribute Magic.”

“Although it’s not ominous, isn’t it tough to stand beside something with such overwhelming presence?”

“Luciel-sama, I’ve not heard of stories about obtaining a job just by eating an item. I believe it would be better if you don’t do it.”

I could not feel the pressure from the white fruit.

But it’s not impossible that the two of them felt that way.

Because why did the Sage develop Object X? ... It was for the sake of eating this.

Last night, just to be safe, I tried asking the Wind Spirit about the dangers of eating the white fruit and I was told that it would cause deadly poisoned state, paralysis, confusion, petrification, weakness, magic seal and revival of the consumer’s past trauma.

For that reason, for humans without Mental Resistance Lv X, there is apparently a chance of turning insane.

I suffered the whole night thinking about it because of that but thankfully I have cleared all the conditions so I decided to eat it.

“Only people with resistance can eat this. Object X was apparently developed for the sake of eating this.”

“” ... Object X.””

The two of them further backed away another step.

It looked like the two of them have both drank Object X before.

Well, Grandol has the Adventurer's Guild Headquarters so it won't be surprising if they had to drink it as a baptism to register as an Adventurer.

Since there wasn't a proper way to eat it, I prepped myself by drinking Object X before biting into the white fruit.

Maybe because I drank Object X beforehand but there wasn't any taste or smell so I was able to eat it without any resistance contrary to what I had imagined.

And when I finished eating the whole fruit without any troubles

... ?

“Luciel-sama, do you feel any discomfort in your body?”

” ... He drank Object X like it was normal ...”

Nadia looked like she was worried about my body but Nadia had a face of disbelief that I drank Object X.

“I don’t feel any discomfort. Rather than that, I totally don’t feel any changes despite eating it ...”

Even when I tried by opening my status, I could not use Holy Attribute Magic as usual and there wasn’t an additional entry for Sage in my job list either.

I staggered from the shock.

Perhaps that wasn’t the white fruit after all?

Perhaps it was actually a considerably delicious fruit but Object X had destroyed the taste?

Just that thought caused my body to tremble all over and strength left my body.

Just the thought of having to go through decades of training and

travel to the World Tree that dragons nest in caused my vision to rapidly darken.

I collapsed but recalling that I am in front of Nadia and Lydia, I willed myself to stand up.

But I completely could not gather strength in my body.

Perhaps I could not balance my thoughts and my physical body.

I had no other choice but to take a deep breath and first open my eyes but then I felt a sense of discomfort.

I thought that the pitch black darkness was simply because my eyes were shut but my eyes were open the whole time.

Then, my consciousness gradually returned. I noticed that the surrounding landscape was moving little by little.

” ... Where is this?”

It seemed that my five senses were working normally.

“Will Nadia and Lydia not wake up?”

But the two of them showed no reaction. My heart rate was rising probably because I was gradually falling into confusion.

Then, I saw a black vortex in front of me.

Dazzling lights shone on the world and the black vortex completely disappeared, leaving a pure white space.

Then, four spheres appeared in front of my eyes.

The colors were white, scarlet, earth and yellow so I could immediately imagine it.

“Holy Dragon, Flame Dragon, Earth Dragon and Thunder Dragon?”

As if responding to my voice, beginning from the Holy Dragon, the heads of the Flame Dragon, Earth Dragon and Thunder Dragon appeared and lined up.

Although it really was only the head portions, they were still extremely huge so they still had considerable impact.

“Long time no see Luciel. It seems like you have smoothly pursued the path towards Sage so I am relieved.”

The Holy Dragon spoke to me.

Moreover, its pronunciation was a lot better.

” ... I didn’t follow the path because I wanted to pursue it! ... Holy Dragon, I wanted to thank you if I met you again. I would be dead without the bones and scales that you left behind. Thank you.”

“Kakaka. So dutiful. Even though you doubted me so much during that time.”

The Holy Dragon spoke happily but it reminded me of when I was in that extreme condition.

” ... I’d prefer if you don’t bring up my youthful impulsiveness.”

Then, the Flame Dragon cut into the conversation.

“Holy Dragon, we don’t have much time. Well, I want to praise you for finding the Dragon God Priestess but to think that you even found the younger sister with the Spirit God’s divine protection ...”

It looked like they knew about Nadia and Lydia but perhaps they have been viewing my situation through their divine protection on me after all?

“Flame Dragon, let’s stop there. Luciel, this world also recognizes bigamy so if you can’t decide, you can just marry the both of them.”

The Holy Dragon interrupted to pacify the situation but then the Earth Dragon cut in.

“Luciel, stick with just the Dragon God Priestess. The dragon race is supreme. Now then, there’s no time so I will announce the main subject. You will probably be a Sage when you wake up. However, you will not be able to use magic apart from Holy Attribute Magic.”

“Eh!?”

As expected, I could not conceal my surprise and I was about to ask the meaning to the words it said but then the Thunder Dragon continued.

“The times has not changed much from the time we have been born in this world of Galdardia. Within that long months and years, the humans who have acquired both divine protection from Dragons and Spirits can be counted in a handful.”

Well, I understood that it was special.

If humans held that many divine protections, the value of divine protections would probably decrease ...

Then, this time, the Holy Dragon continued the topic.

“Among those who acquired those divine protections, without exceptions, they all passed away without becoming capable of using said power. However, only one person appeared who could

join our power and the Spirit's power and use it.”

There was probably only one such person.

” ... You are referring to Sir Rainstar?”

“The conversation will be faster since you know. Do you have the necklace that incorporates our souls?”

“I've kept it in my cherished magic bag?”

“Wear it around your neck. And call our names when you release magic. If you do so, the power of supremacy thou seeks will awaken.”

” ... Nonono, what I wish for is to once again use Holy Attribute Magic.”

Even though I obtained Supreme Luck, I have not even a millimeter of desire to become a Supreme ruler.

“What, such an insignificant thing.”

Having heard me, the Holy Dragon muttered in an extremely trivial tone and the same time it winked, a pale white light entered my body.

My body became warm.

“Hn? It’s about time. Luciel, if you father kids, I’ll give them divine blessings.”

The Flame Dragon said.

“It’s regrettable but it can’t be helped. Luciel, don’t forget that the dragon tribe is supreme.”

The Earth Dragon left with the words that dragons are supreme no matter what.

“The next time I meet Luciel would probably be when you have an audience with Dragon God-sama.”

The Thunder Dragon’s kindness permeated my heart while lastly, the Holy Dragon said the set phrase.

“I pray that you release my captured brethren in this world and prevent the invasion of the demon race.”

“Wait a minute, don’t just smoothly add the mission to stop the invasion of the demon race.”

“”””Farewell.””””

The four dragons ignored me and once again turned into light spheres and emitted light.

“Ugh.”

“Luciel-sama, did it make you feel bad as expected?”

“It’s because you ate an unknown food together with Object X. Sister, weren’t we supposed to stop him?”

It seemed like I had returned to reality along with the dazzling light and time had not passed for some reason.

The two of them began to worry as I remained silent so I told them I was fine before once again checking my status.

If the Holy Dragon and others were real just now, I thought as I looked at my status and froze.

And for some reason, sweat began to fall from my eyes.

That’s right, I accomplished the job change from Healer to Sage.

Furthermore, there was another more important change.

“Yes!—”

I was shouting out loud by the time I noticed.

I explained to the two people with blank looks due to shock from my behavior that my job change to Sage has come true and more importantly, my Holy Attribute Magic has been restored.

Chapter 183: Regained Power And New Powers

There was hardly any changes in my status.

Only my job changed from Healer X to Sage I and Holy Attribute Magic was no longer grayed out.

My ‘Divine Protection from the Spirits’ had changed to ‘Divine Protection from the Six Spirits’ but because my level had not risen, there weren’t many changes to my attributes compared to a couple months ago.

However, maybe because I kept swinging my sword every day this three months, my Sword Mastery level rose.

Name: Luciel

Job: Sage I, Faith Dragon Knight IV (Four Attribute Dragon Knight) (1↑)

LV: 193

Age: 21

HP: 7310 (20↑)

MP: 5300 (30↑)

STR: 852 (2↑)

INT: 966 (5↑)

VIT: 932

MGI: 962 (3↑)

DEX: 801

RMG: 960 (6↑)

AGI: 825

SP: 86

【Skills】

「Proficiency Appraisal－」

「Great luck－」

「Supreme Luck －」

「Limit Break －」

「Taijutsu VI」

「Sword Mastery VI」(1↑)

「Spear Mastery IV」

「Shield Mastery IV」

「Archery I」

「Twin Spear Sword Technique IV」

「Throwing VI」

「Footwork VIII」

「Magical Power Manipulation X」

「Magical Power Control X 」

「Magical Power Amplification III」

「Body Strengthening VI」

「Chant Shortening IX」

「Chant Termination VII」

「No Chant IV」

「Magic Circle Chant V」(1↑)
「Multiple Chant III」
「Holy Magic X」
「Meditation IX」
「Concentration IX」
「Leadership III」
「Danger Perception VIII」
「Presence Perception V」
「Magical Power Perception V」
「Search for Enemy I」
「Dismantling IV」
「Horse Riding III」
「Parallel Thinking VII」
「Thought Acceleration III」
「Spatial Awareness II」
「Trap Sensing IV」
「Trap Detection III」
「Trap Disarming III」
「Cartography V」
「HP Recovery IX」
「MP Recovery IX」
「HP Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「MP Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「STR Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「VIT Increased Rate of Growth IX」

「DEX Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「AGI Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「INT Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「MGI Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「RMG Increased Rate of Growth IX」
「Physical Ability Increased Rate of Growth VII」(1↑)
「Poison Resistance IX」
「Weakness Resistance IX」
「Paralysis Resistance IX」
「Magic Seal Resistance IX」
「Petrification Resistance IX」
「Disease Resistance IX」
「Sleep Resistance IX」
「Blunt Damage Resistance VII」
「Charm Resistance VII」
「Bewitch Resistance IX」
「Curse Resistance IX」
「Mental Resistance X」
「Slash Resistance IX」
「Pierce Resistance VII」
「Intimidation Resistance V」

【Titles】

「One who changed their destiny」 - All status +10

「God of Destiny's divine protection」 - Increased SP acquisition

「Holy Healing God's blessing」 - Potency of Holy attribute healing magic increased by 1.5 times

「Divine protection from many Dragons」 - Strengthened Holy, Flame, Earth, Lightning offensive and defensive attributes. Rise in combat skills and status. It is now possible to converse with the dragon race

「Divine protection from the Six Spirits」 - Strengthened Water, Earth, Fire, Light, Darkness offensive and defensive attributes. Grant and support of attributes.

「Dragon (Oriental Dragon龍) Slaughter」 - Proof of having slain more than one dragon. Strengthened offense and defence against dragons 龍 and their kin

「Dragon race (Japanese Dragon竜) Slayer」 - Strengthened offense and defence against dragons竜

「Giant Slayer」 - Strengthened offense and defence against giants

「Magical beast Slayer」 - Strengthened offense and defence against magical beasts

「One who repelled the Evil God」 - Against the demon race and monsters

「One who unleashed the seals」 - Immune to the curse of the evil god. Capable of acquiring the power of the sealed dragons

「One guided by the Dragon God」 - Relationship with the Dragon race and those who follow the dragons strengthens

I was reminded that results will show themselves if I worked hard but I cast 「Heal」 just in case.

When I did so, a pale light suddenly dwelled in my hand and

begin to shine. But it appeared considerably different from the 「Heal」 I recall.

Even though the consumption of magical power had decreased, its effect was comparable to a 「Middle Heal」.

“Sage ... even though it’s only level I, it’s not half-bad.”

A stranger would definitely avoid me if he saw the complacent smile on my face right now but Nadia and Lydia shared in my happiness.

“Luciel-sama, congratulations.”

“It’s great. Really wonderful.”

The two of them smiled as they cried tears of joy.

“With this, you’re thinking you no longer need to continue that training that abuses your body right?”

” ... Luciel-sama’s thinking is a bit too honest.”

The real meaning behind their words was about the instinctual behavior of all living creatures that woke up within me after I lost my Healer job.

In nature, when males are weak, they would instinctively want to leave offspring so I've been constantly feeling anguished since we came to Nelldal.

There were times when I thought perhaps they could tell and if they were inviting me but I purged those thoughts with steadfast determination.

I would probably have been captivated by them if it's a time when there aren't any problems but I was currently in a crisis.

If I lost myself to lust at such a time, I feared that I would not be able to stop and I might just see the two of them as a sexual outlet.

That's why I overworked my body to prevent the build-up of sexual desire and wicked thoughts and somehow escaped the charm of the two of them by using Angel's Pillow.

“The two of you are attractive so it was a tough fight against worldly desires. Furthermore, thinking of Shisho and Lionel, I also wanted to regain my Holy Attribute Magic as soon as possible.”

The two of them smiled shyly when I told them that they were attractive and nodded repeatedly when I talked about Shisho and the others.

“You could put in great effort precisely because you were doing it for them right.”

“Luciel-sama ...”

Although Holy Attribute Magic supports my heart the most, they were strangely impressed by me ... and since they were feeling moved already, it looked like I didn't have to tell them everything.

I wanted to immediately use the magic communication bead to inform Pope-sama of the return of my Holy Attribute Magic but a few days after arriving at Nelldal, Pope-sama gave me a strict order to not use the magic communication bead for communication in the Magic Guild for fear of them eavesdropping so I was hesitating as to whether to contact her.

Shisho's magic communication bead has a short range so I won't be able to reach him.

Then, I thought of Dolan and Paula and that they probably have joined up with Lionel and the others so I tried contacting them but there was apparently no reaction.

” ... It's probably in their magic bag.”

I was worried about the world below nonetheless so I decided to ask the Wind Spirit about the situation below later.

“Luciel-sama, what would be our objective from now on?”

“Will we return to the surface immediately after releasing the dragons.”

“I can’t say for certain without actually meeting the dragons. Why do you ask?”

“Even though we’ve finally come to the City in the Sky, we haven’t left the Magic Guild even once? I’ve wanted to visit the townscape all this time.”

Lydia said shyly.

Thinking back, it’s true that we have not stepped foot outside of the Magic Guild even once.

Without feeling like I’m in Nelldal floating in the sky, I trained and slept like a log every day.

“We certainly haven’t left the Magic Guild since we came here. It would have been fine if you didn’t hesitate to tell me ... I’ll ask Orford-san about it when I meet him later today.”

The two of them smiled delightedly when I said that.

The two of them probably endured in various ways but it didn’t cross my mind at all.

It seemed like my vision was narrowed to a considerable extent.

I thought to myself to endeavor to be kind to others and to be strict with myself.

After we finished preparing, we went to the training grounds before my appointment with the Wind Spirit.

“Luciel-sama, since you’ve become a Sage, you definitely can use other magic too.”

“Since you’ve acquired the divine protection of all six Spirits, they would definitely lend you their power.”

I was thankful for their support but I probably won’t be able to cast magic.

Even so, I tried to have some faith and wore the Dragon Necklace around my neck before channeling magical power into my Illusionary Cane and calling out.

“Flame Dragon ... activate?”

Nothing flew out at all and I totally didn’t sense my magical power get drawn out.

There was an awkward moment of silence.

I felt tepid gazes from Nadia and Lydia.

I quietly transformed it to the Illusionary Sword and took up my usual posture for when I try to send a flying slash.

Channeling magical power into the Illusionary Sword, I hoped to myself that it would be sent out this time as I swung it with all my strength and cried out.

“Flame Dragon Sword!”

The next instant, like the time when I was fighting the Evil God and cast Sanctuary Circle and Sanctuary Barrier with No Chant multiple times, I felt my magical power get intensely drawn out of my body all at once.

But what surprised me was not the magical power consumption but the power of the Flame Dragon Sword.

Instead of a slash, the Illusionary Sword released a small scarlet snake that reached the wall of the training ground in an instant and its power shook the training ground when it hit the wall like it bit it.

『Dogooooooooon』

It felt like my heart was about to stop from the tremendous power and the sound of explosion.

I thought that the training ground wall would immediately recover since it was made to labyrinth specifications but there was a sunken hole of about 3 meters deep and 30 centimeters in diameter where the flame burned without disappearing.

” ... Flying slash? Or was it a flying dragon?”

When I confirmed my magical power that was clearly depleted, I saw that the one attack I just released consumed about one thousand magical power.

It'll completely be my last resort/trump card as it would be the end after I shoot five of them out.

While feeling frightened at the phenomenon that I caused, I wanted to ask for the thoughts of the two of them but when I turned back, they were staring stiffly at the wall that was still burning.

“The magical power consumption is nothing to sneeze at so I don't think I'll be able to use it many times but I'd love to hear if you have any thoughts about it?”

“Luciel-sama, what exactly? What kind of magic is that? I sensed dragon powers mixed within?”

“That was the first time I’ve seen a flying flame snake. Moreover, the power was amazing!!”

Nadia was flustered because I was able to cast magic even though I’ve not been able to until now while Lydia solely focused on praising its power.

On the whole, it seemed like the two of them rated the Flame Dragon Sword quite highly.

“Nadia, that was apparently something that has been used for the first time using the divine protection of Spirits and Dragons. So at the moment, I am probably the only one who can use it.”

” ... I see. Luciel-sama, I think that it a wonderful attack magic.”

Even while she praised me, I noticed a slight gloom in her smile.

That’s why I told Nadia the information I obtained from the Wind Spirit when I spoke to it last night.

“By possessing the divine protection of Dragons, physical ability increases but it apparently makes the use of magic itself difficult. It’s just a guess but maybe you can try various magic attributes and decide on one attribute to try chanting many times?”

“A single magic huh ... then I would like to focus on the Lightning attribute.”

Nadia smiled to not show me her disappointment but in the contrary, it was more painful to see.

Even though normally it should be possible to learn it after chanting it for thousands of times for roughly three months, Nadia had not learned it.

Was the reason because her job was Swordswoman and that her title is Dragon Priestess so the proficiency that she can obtain is low to begin with?

“Nadia, did you properly acquire the Magical power Manipulation and Magical Power Control skills?”

“No, it was written in the book that anybody can learn them if they work hard so I didn’t acquire them.”

It seems like the author of the church book I read and theirs was not the same.

There was no meaning in telling that to Nadia but when I tried to say something constructive, I stumbled upon an unexpected fact.

It seemed like she could only ambiguously perceive even her own magical power and that she does not clearly understand how to move magical power.

Furthermore, even though Lydia had actually been using Spirit Magic until today, the Spirits apparently perform the precise magical power control so she was at the same level with Nadia when we came to Nelldal.

“Nadia, if you have SP remaining and have nothing to acquire through SP, it would be better if you learn Magical Power Control.”

“Understood.”

Thus, Nadia acquired Magical Power Control.

Then, I taught her tips to Magical Power Control before we begin moving from the training ground to the fountain.

The flames from the Flame Dragon Sword had died out by the time we left the training ground.

However, the hole in the wall did not reform so perhaps the internal mechanism was destroyed? I prayed that I won't have to provide compensation for it.

Chapter 184: Glimpse

After I've tried my new powers, I brought Nadia and Lydia along to the fountain located in the center of Nelldal but Orford-san was already there on a bench beside the fountain reading a book.

“Orford-san, sorry to have kept you waiting.”

When I apologized to him, Orford-san stopped reading his book but he suddenly chanted magic.

I was on guard for a moment but the magic he cast was not attack magic but a green barrier with the fountain as the center.

“We won't have to worry about others peeping and eavesdropping with this. Luciel-dono, the explosion at the training ground just now was tremendous but ... wow, I'm surprised you became a Sage through your own efforts.”

Maybe Orford-san used Appraisal as he had a stunned expression.

When Pope-sama told me to watch out for eavesdroppers, she probably wasn't referring to Orford-san who possess the Appraisal skill but as a warning to me to remain vigilant against the other countries.

I could clearly see that now. Also at the same time, I tried to confirm if the person in front of me was the Wind Spirit or Orford-san.

“Would I lose my divine protection if I shout that out here?”

“I thought I told you that is a secret!! Don’t you dare!”

He looked at me with a serious look and with dreadful threatening attitude so I stopped.

It looks like it was currently the Wind Spirit.

However, I didn’t understand why the Wind Spirit would be so cautious towards the surroundings.

Since the Wind Spirit should own quite a wide territory.

“Why are you so wary? Moreover, Orford-san knows about this right?”

“Umu. But Orford is already an old man ... it won’t be strange if he grows senile anytime ...”

Even though it’s the Wind Spirit, it didn’t sound like it was a trivial matter so I reluctantly pursued the topic further.

“But that doesn’t answer my question?”

“This fellow still has not elected his essential successor. That’s

why I have no choice but to appear on the surface and let that Orford worry about who to select as his successor on the inside.”

It was considerably more important that I had imagined.

“Since when has he been thinking about it?”

“It has already been this way for a couple of years. Seriously, I thought I signed a contract with a terrific guy but I’ve been regretting it lately.”

The Wind Spirit made a pose to show it was fed up but it also looked like it was somehow enjoying it too.

Then, a thought suddenly passed through my mind.

” ... Have we not even conversed with Orford-san until now by any chance?”

“No, you all have. I can safely say that when you all first arrived at Nelldal, when the honey was involved and later when you all first began magic training, he was observing you all seriously.”

The Wind Spirit said earnestly with a friendly smile.

If that’s the case, then it really was Orford-san who created that stack of materials.

Even though he was doing it so half-heartedly at that start ... he gradually became more cooperative so something might have happened.

But I was bothered by one matter, wouldn't he have noticed the real reason as to why Nadia couldn't use magic?

“Is that so?”

“He told me that the figures of youngsters single-mindedly working hard, especially in the pursuit of magic, reminded himself of his youth.”

Maybe although the people who come to Nelldal researched magic with him, there probably wasn't anybody who tried to master the essence of magic ... wait, maybe that was what he was grieving about before.

... Maybe the letter from Pope-sama also asked about the development of magic tools and such so he was displeased?

I became slightly uneasy.

“Well then, it won't help even if we talked about it here so let's first go to the center. Enter the fountain.”

” ... It would dirty the water and it should be something that good kids shouldn't imitate?”

“This is just a magic tool made to look like a fountain. You won’t get wet even if you entered it.”

I believed its words and when I stepped into the fountain, I really didn’t get wet at all.

Then, the Wind Spirit chanted something and the fountain sunk into the ground.

The surroundings were all walls so I couldn’t peek to see what was inside.

“Is this a magic elevator?”

“That’s right. But this one has a trick. Only me and Orford can activate this. That’s right! Would you like to learn how to activate it?”

I felt a strange chill at that time for some reason so I refused.

“I’ll have to decline. We’ll probably only stay here for a few more days only anyway.”

” ... That’s a shame.”

The magic elevator stopped the same time the Wind Spirit remarked that it was a shame and it looked like we had arrived at

our destination.

A large space appeared in front of my eyes and I understood that this was the boss room in a labyrinth made evident by the existence of the sealed door in front of me.

” ... Why was this place hidden from us when we came to Nelldal?”

“I wonder~? Probably because he recalled that Pope Fluna once turned him down here or that he was jealous of how you have become her favorite. Fofoyo.”

I see. It's true that although Pope-sama looks like she's about 20 years old, she's a member of the long-lived race and has already lived for centuries.

She gives off a mysterious impression that can't be felt from a regular elf so it's understandable.

However, even though the jealousy of an elderly is hard to resolve, it seemed like we resolved it without knowing.

“It can't be helped if that's the case.”

I walked towards the sealed door as I gave a wry grin but the sealed door had already been opened.

” ... The sealed door is open? This ... ”

“Ever since I came to Nelldal, there has always been a gap about that size. Even if a person is capable of coming here, an ordinary person would not be permitted to enter so it’s probably not an issue.”

I don’t feel anything but are Nadia and Lydia alright?

I became worried and when I looked, Nadia seemed fine but Lydia didn’t look like she was feeling well as her complexion was pale.

“Is Orford-san’s body alright?”

“No, it’s under the pressure of a considerable burden. Nothing serious will happen if I leave his actual body but Orford has also not left the realms of a human.”

It sounded like it just bluntly certified that I am no longer human but Lydia’s complexion was bad so I swallowed his words and asked the Wind Spirit.

” ... Then could you look after Lydia? Nadia and I would enter.”

“Luciel-sama, I can go too.”

Lydia wanted to follow but the Wind Spirit cut in between us and

stopped her.

“Ojou-chan can study Wind Spirit Magic with me here.”

“But ...”

It seems like it had planned to instruct Lydia on magic since the beginning.

The Wind Spirit smiled.

Even so, Lydia still looked at me with imploring eyes but then Nadia began to persuade her.

“Lydia, leave Luciel-sama to me. I also have to carry out the duty I have as the Dragon Priestess and Lydia should also fulfill your duty as the possessor of the Spirit God’s divine protection.”

“Onee-sama ... okay. The two of you please be careful.”

She was quickly convinced to do what she must.

There was no tragic separation.

“Alright. So Wind Spirit, please take care of Lydia. I’ll meet the Twin Dragons with Nadia.”

“Umu. Leave it to me.”

Then, Nadia and I dove through the dragon sealed door.

“I’m nervous. There isn’t an oppressive sensation but I feel like I’m being watched.”

“Well, the Twin Dragons will probably come out soon.”

There were stairs immediately after we stepped through the door and we proceeded by descending the stairs.

And I planned to chant Sanctuary Circle as usual the instant I saw the Twin Dragons once we reached the bottom of the stairs but I couldn’t do so.

《Sage, come let us see you.》

《And Sage, we will show you your possibilities.》

《《We will not gift our divine protection to a cowardly person.》》

Those voices echoed in my head so I stopped my activation of Sanctuary Circle.

I don’t particularly need the divine protection but neither do I want to die an early death.

“I was just spoken to by the dragons but did you hear it?”

” ... What are you talking about?”

It looked like Nadia didn't hear the voices so I was skeptical about the purpose of her Dragon Priestess title.

“The dragons contacted me so there might be a battle. Get ready.”

“Yes.”

When we descended down the stairs completely, the Water Dragon and the Wind Dragon showed themselves.

Unlike the dragons that I've seen until now, not only did they retain their consciousness, it also didn't look like they were under the curse of the Evil God as they looked down upon us from the sky.

Eh? Maybe it will conclude without a battle this time ... I thought.

《Firstly, Sage and Dragon Priestess, congratulations on reaching this location.》

《I thank you for dispelling the curse of the Evil God on my

brethren.》

“Everything took care of itself in its own course but I am glad that I was of use.”

The Twin Dragons were capable of speech and there was no oppressive feeling so I could converse with them in a relaxing atmosphere.

《However, we are the strongest species in history.》

《One can only prove oneself through battle.》

However, it seemed like Supreme Luck-sensei was stricter compared to Great Luck-sensei as the conversation was somehow developing towards a strange direction.

” ... Do the two of you plan to battle amongst yourselves?”

《Gahaha. Tonight’s Sage is interesting.》

《The one fighting us is you.》

《Of course, I won’t fight seriously.》

《But, we will be using the strength of our brethren so we’ll be attacking with attacks other than those that will instant-kill you.》

《We'll give you our divine protection if you can splendidly fight us.》

《《Make us acknowledge you using your own strength.》》

I screamed internally that this world doesn't just have the Evil God and Death God as the Twin Dragons in front of my eyes laughed with shining eyes.

That scene somehow reminded me of the time when Shisho trained me.

Then I realized. In the end, the Twin Dragons are just battle maniacs.

The dragon race itself is most likely made up of battle maniacs and their power was most likely restrained by the Evil God's curse such that they didn't end up killing me.

That's why Supreme Luck-sensei probably made me battle the dragons as a trial as it would let me experience growth ... I looked for a means to escape as I had that thought.

I could understand but I cannot possibly be convinced by it.

But I don't believe the twin dragons would give me the chance to escape ... ? That's when I noticed that Nadia's condition was

strange.

Looking at Nadia, her forehead was glistening with beads of sweat and it felt like her eyes had lost their shine.

“Please hold the battle, Nadia’s condition seems weird.”

But I was the only person perturbed by it, the twin dragons didn’t show any indication of worry.

《Don’t worry. We won’t harm the Priestess.》

《She must currently be speaking with Dragon God-sama through us.》

《Send the Priestess to the stairs and I’ll be his opponent first.》

The Water Dragon said.

《I’ll look after the Priestess so you can safely exert your full strength.》

The Wind Dragon said as it manipulated the wind that caused Nadia’s body to float in the air and after she was carried to the bottom of the stairs we descended down earlier, she was visibly covered with a green membrane.

Then, the Water Dragon's voice echoed in my head.

《I will allow you to challenge me any number of times.》

《However, if you give up, I will not acknowledge you regardless of what Sage you become.》

《If you want tranquillity, seek might, knowledge and harmony.》

《If you do so, your dream will come true.》

《《Death through old age ... Gahahaha.》

Setting aside how they knew my dream, looking at the Twin Dragons that burst out laughing in the sky, I wondered why can't they just skip all this, give me their divine protection and quickly let me go home?

I sincerely hoped for that in my heart.

Chapter 185: Imagination And Possibility

The location that I thought the Twin Dragons were sealed at was about four times as wide as the training ground in the Adventurer's Guild.

But even so, it was probably because of the Water Dragon in front of me and the Wind Dragon holding itself back behind me that made me feel like the place was cramped.

It's like I'm between a rock and a hard place.

It allowed me to choose the timing to launch my attack but petty tricks would probably not work.

But suddenly starting with an ultimate move would also mean defeat.

Nonetheless, I should make full use of small tricks ... I stopped thinking negatively for a while and tried to negotiate.

“Water Dragon, my magical power would deplete after releasing five shots of Dragon Sword. So could you please wait until I recover after that?”

《Sure. Try to corner me with your wisdom.》

Does that mean it is fine to negotiate binding terms against it?

However, asking for any more concessions despite the battle not having started yet would likely incur its wrath so I stopped there.

“I won’t be able to properly compete with you even if we fight so, Water Dragon, please make sure to hold back.”

《Nuuuu》

“This time, as Faith Dragon Knight (Four Attribute Dragon Knight) Luciel, I shall challenge you, Water Dragon.”

Looking at the Water Dragon groan like it was slightly annoyed, I instantly circulated magical power throughout my body as a countermeasure against physical and magical damage, quickly activated Area Barrier, activated Physical Body Strengthening, and while announcing my challenge, I kicked the ground at once.

Since it has such a large frame, its movements should be slow.

Moreover, rather than take on the breath attack that can’t be dodged, I thought that it would be better to close the distance so that it can’t use its breath.

Then when I was in a position not more than ten meters away from the Water Dragon, I channeled magical power into my Illusionary Sword and activated my newly attained power.

“Flame Dragon Sword, Thunder Dragon Sword, Earth Dragon Sword.”

If petty tricks or a strong technique are both half-measures, I decided to go with a frontal assault with three consecutive release of strong techniques.

However, performing those techniques without grasping their special characteristics by rehearsing resulted in negative results.

The Flame Dragon and Thunder Dragon flew towards the Water Dragon but the Earth Dragon did not activate.

But shortly within a blink of the eye, the Flame Dragon and Thunder Dragon snapped at the Water Dragon.

At that moment, a tremendous amount of steam rose up.

I stood disorientated from the skills that consumed more than half of my magical power but I immediately tried to follow up with another attack without dispelling my Physical Body Strengthening.

But I couldn't do so.

“Wha!? I'm frozen?”

My feet were frozen and I was in an immobile state before I knew it.

Then, when the steam dissipated, the Water Dragon with its body covered in ice appeared with no signs of anything having happened to it.

《Going all out is quite good but you should consider your opponent's attribute more.》

“To even be able to control ice, please change your name to Water Ice Dragon.”

《Fool, why did you decide that I who governs water would not be able to refine ice. Start over ... Guo?!》

The Water Dragon was hit by an unexpected strike when it was about to attack and I had stiffened my guard at the center of my body. A dragon ... snake came out from the earth behind the Water Dragon and bit it.

However, since it was an attack beyond the Water Dragon's expectations, the attack reached it.

Well, the person that was the most surprised was none other than myself but I felt that it was an opportunity for me so I tried to break out of the ice but I totally could not break it.

《What a tactic, to be able to manage to perform a time difference attack alone and also talk to me to catch me off guard. It looks like I won't be bored.》

The next instant, water appeared where there was nothing there before and it gradually swelled until it stopped when it became larger than the Water Dragon.

《A lot of water is present in the air even if we can't visibly see it. I can use it for both attack and defense.》

The huge water ball split into an unavoidable number of baseball-sized masses and flew towards me.

“It's quite powerful but if it's only this ...”

I channeled magical power into my Illusionary Sword and intended to first crush the ice around my feet but the Water Dragon's attack gradually intensified and moreover, the water turned into ice so I could do nothing but somehow try to defend using a large shield.

《Nuuuu, boring.》

After some time had passed, the Water Dragon grumbled and the ice around my feet melted away and the all the water completely returned to the Water Dragon.

《Sage, are you incapable of using attribute magic?》

“I can't. I am only able to use Holy Attribute magic and can only

circulate the other magic attributes but I can't cast them."

《Then, circulate fire magical power and try to concentrate it in your feet.》

The instant I wanted to attempt chanting Fire Attribute Magic as I was told, my feet were frozen.

"Cold!?"

《If you can circulate Fire Attribute magical power, trying using that to melt the ice. I'll steadily freeze this place over until you are able to move.》

"... Alright."

Like before, I'm not capable of doing anything even if I object so I followed the Water Dragon's instructions.

Closing my eyes, I imaged myself extracting only the fire attribute among the magical power within my body out and cladding myself in the magical power of Flame.

I could feel the gazes from the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon but the two of them were probably conversing.

It won't really matter if I don't live up to their expectations but I might even be forbidden from leaving this place for life if I do it

badly so I focused all I had into the training.

I had no idea how much time passed but the feeling in my feet changed from cold to painful and then to numbness.

Still, I continued to clad myself in magical power but I could not melt the ice.

«Sage. You have both my brethren's power as well as the Spirit's power but you are bound too much by your common sense. If you don't try to be slightly more imaginative, you might have to spend the rest of your life in an ice coffin?»

I somehow felt like I want to sit down and have a meeting with Great Luck-sensei and Supreme Luck-sensei as to why my expectations only come true for cases like these.

” ... Please spare me from that. I don't have the preference of getting sealed in permafrost! Leaving that aside, imagination?”

«That's right. I'll only give you a single hint. I used water for my earlier attack and defense but I can also use all liquids for attack and defense.»

“Attack and defense ... but that is ...”

«It's utterly foolish to try to decide if anything is possible or not without first attempting to verify a new possibility. If you insist on fretting on the small matters, maybe it would be better to soak you

in ice after all.》

“Wha!? Wait a minute.”

In an instant, my body was encased and captured in ice with the exception of my face.

《It’s human nature after all to think of unnecessary things when not pushed into a corner. Now, break out from that with your own ability.》

The Water Dragon said that before it fell backward, rolled itself up and went to sleep.

The Wind Dragon was already similarly rolled up and sleeping.

It looked like I had completely been branded a disappointment and they had lost interest in me.

Well, leaving the assessment of the Twin Dragon aside,

Freezing me, or rather, burying my body in ice is still foul play.

But not being able to move or even escape, I really didn’t expect the battle with the real boss to be like that.

I’ll have to somehow look for the path to resolve this while

keeping in mind the hint the Water Dragon spoke before I lose my capability to think.

The Water Dragon said that the fixed ideas I have are a hindrance.

Moreover, I apparently lack imagination ... I held the Illusionary Sword in my hand but because it was encased in ice, I could not move it.

Since I was covered in ice, my body temperature also rapidly decreased which caused my consciousness to slowly become hazy.

I thought of wearing the Flame Dragon as an armor but that was also unrealistic.

Since my body would probably be burnt by the flames if I did that.

What do I do? Those words spun around in my head.

Even though it's no good, should I wear the Flame Dragon after all? Can I even wear it? If I do it, it won't just end with burns ... normally.

I've already regained my powers so what am I if I can't even wear a Flame Dragon.

If that's the case, I'll show them my imaginativeness.

I somehow held onto my consciousness as I mustered my willpower to channel magical power all at once into my Illusionary Sword and cried out.

“Holy Dragon that protects, Flame Dragon that burns it all, release me from this abominable ice!”

The next instant, a pale dragon clung to my armor while a scarlet dragon began to rotate around the pale light.

Then, the ice melted in the blink of an eye.

Then, the Holy Dragon that protected me and the Flame Dragon that melted everything disappeared before I could say that they had completed their duty.

“How's that!!”

I inadvertently screamed out but I suddenly fell into magical power depletion and showed the unsightly appearance of not being able to stand without drinking a magical power potion.

But, I could not overcome the nasty feeling of magical power depletion.

《Umu. The idea is good but it can't be used in real combat. Take a

break until your magical power recovers and have a magic discussion with me.》

《I'll join in too if that's the case.》

Perhaps the reason why the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon stayed in Nelldal was because the Magic Guild that is the headquarters of magic is located here?

I could not help but suspect that.

Chapter 186: A Man's Romance?

I fell into the condition of magical power depletion from my battle with the Water Dragon but for some reason, it turned into a lecture from the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon about the mechanism of magical power.

«Sage, your mind is too rigid. If only you open your mind, you would be able to fully demonstrate the power you have finally acquired?»

«Only using our power to supplement your own magical power would cause you to fall into magical power depletion. Think for a moment for what reason did you acquire the divine protection of Spirits and Dragons.»

“Even if you tell me that, although I’ve finally regained Holy Attribute Magic after a long time, I only began to use Dragon Magic today so it’s difficult to fully grasp it.”

«Sage, what do you understand of our Dragon divine protection and the divine protection of Spirits?»

“Understanding of the divine protections? Dragon divine protections strengthen the body and raise attack and defense against dragons and their kin. For Spirit divine protections, it increases the magic resistance towards the respective attributes.”

«... That’s not wrong. However, such a shallow understanding of it ... it’s the same for my brethren too but Sage, your diligence in

understanding yourself is insufficient.»

«I will not recognize those who understand any less than that. There is no loss in knowing more information.»

The content the Twin Dragons spoke of overlapped with something written in a business article I read in the past.

Hearing those words, I could only nod.

«Sage, my brethrens' powers are enormous. However, it is originally not something that people who have the divine protections can utilize.»

«Only Sages who materialize the power of the divine protection from Spirits can utilize our powers.»

” ... Don't the power of Dragons and the power of Spirits resist each other?”

«It seems like you are misunderstanding something. It's true that after receiving both divine protections, the manifestation of regular magic becomes more difficult.»

«That's right. Indeed, from now, it would probably be difficult for you to express magic that humans normally use no matter how hard you work. In addition, since you did not possess the divine protection of Spirits since you were born, you would likely not be able to fully utilize Spirit Magic either.»

“It would help if you summarize it. It’s a little jumbled up.”

《Ordinary humans can’t see Spirits and naturally can’t hear their voices too so they can’t use their magic from the start.》

“Didn’t you just nonchalantly say something serious?”

But they ignored my words and continued their speech.

《However, you learned the method to manifest the power of Dragons.》

《But, as you are now, you hardly have the power to break through difficulties.》

I had the undeniable feeling that I was being ignored for interrupting them.

Rather than a dialogue, it felt more like an atmosphere where I have to listen to everything before I ask questions.

《If you are capable of manifesting my brethren’s power and clad yourself in it, you should be fully able to utilize the Spirit’s power without expending that much magical power given that you have a clear mental image of what phenomenon you want the Spirits to cause while providing them with magical power.》

《However, if you activate it by channeling it into your sword, it would probably expend as much magical power as it had previously.》

Summarizing the words of the Twin Dragons, does it mean that although it is the same as when I release a flying slash, magical power consumption will be suppressed if I wear it instead?

《You look like you have questions but before that, I will explain to you the divine protections. Firstly, the Divine Protection from Spirits makes the handling of the respective attributes easier and allows conversion to your favorite magical power.》

《Even though many Spirits exist in the natural world, normally they won't take action even if you provide them with magical power. However, the Spirits have hierarchy too, in cases where you are given the divine protection of a Great Spirit that possesses enough power to give out divine protections, the Spirits will take the initiative to work for you.》

《If it's a Sage like you, even if you provide little magical power, as long as you have a definite mental image, the Spirits will be able to gather up magical power that exists in the natural world.》

Does that mean that as long as I have a clear mental image, even with spending little magical power, I can clad my body in the power of Dragons?

Then why is it that the magical power consumption for Dragon Sword doesn't change?

《The skill you used to release my brethrens' powers differs from the magical power of the natural world. For that reason, when you instead wear it around your body, the Spirits are able to compensate for the insufficient areas.》

《However, when the magical power is isolated from your body, they can't supply the natural world's magical power fast enough.》

《Sage, now that we have spoken until here, do you perhaps understand what you are lacking?》

“Just like how I circulate magical power within my body, I should control the magical power that I clad my body in?”

《Umu, that's fine. Since it would just be like bullying the weak if it continued like before.》

《It's a little soon but I'll be your opponent next.》

” ... Before that, you all didn't explain to me the Divine Protection of Dragons?”

The Wind Dragon was confident but I didn't think that it would immediately lead to results just by receiving advice from them.

Hence, I decided to prolong the time until my magical power recovered.

《Our divine protection strengthen the physical body and the respective attributes.》

It seems like, in terms of usefulness of the divine protections, the Divine Protection of Sprits are useful while the ones from the Dragons are not so much so.

” ... I see.”

《So, have you understood our divine protection and that of the Spirits as well as the power residing within yourself?》

“It’s still a little vague but I’ve grasped the gist of it.”

《Umu, then let’s fight ... or that’s what I would like to say but it’s not fun bullying you while you are in magical power depletion.》

It seems like the Wind Dragon somehow understood my intention.

“Then what would we do?”

《Show me how you control yourself in the air after I flip you into the air.》

“Eh? What ... Ooooo!? I’m floating?”

In response to the Wind Dragon's words, my body suddenly began floating in the air.

I gradually floated away from the surface and flew up to the Twin Dragons' eye level in the blink of an eye.

Even though I've just merely left the ground, for some reason I felt uneasy.

《With Wind Magic, humans can freely fly in the air. While accelerating in the air, master that sensation.》

Why did it turn out this way? Doesn't this look like I've completely turned into a toy for them?

While having such thoughts, the sensation of speed gradually increased and the G force that accompanies the upwards and downwards movements kicked in.

I somehow kept it together and maintained my posture but maybe it was not interesting to them as the difficulty suddenly increased.

《Sage, it looks like your body balance is quite good. Next, I'll make a wall of air so prepare for impact.》

I immediately cast Area Barrier when it said that and an instant

later, an invisible mass hit the left side of my upper body and my body was sent flying.

Once I lost my balance, my body began rotating and I lost my central axis.

In the end, I was in a difficult situation as I tumbled countless times in the air and it had an effect on my semicircular canals as my eyes had difficulty focusing.

«Clad yourself in magical power and speak to the Spirits. If it's you, they would teach you a technique to overcome winds of this degree.»

Or rather, just stop this wind!! I'd love to scream that out but they likely didn't have any intention of stopping no matter how much I scream.

I immediately switched gears and shouted out what I associate with that can dispel my current predicament.

“Earth Dragon, and Spirits, create a foothold that can ride over the raging winds.”

«Nu?»

After I shouted that out, light shone at my feet and something smaller but wider than a surfboard, a wakeboard ... a gypsum board appeared.

“It doesn’t matter as long as I have a foothold ahhhhhhhhhhh.”

I was buffered by an excessive amount of wind and fell head first onto the ground ... or so I thought but I stopped in an instant about 30cm from the ground.

” ... I’m saved?”

The magic board that I hastily constructed had already shattered from just now.

I could casually think about how it was possible to create materials in the air where there was nothing around because I didn’t crash into the ground.

However, something else was in store for me.

《Idiot!! What were you thinking to further increase your wind resistance.》

Without even lowering me to the ground, the Wind Dragon once again raised me to its eye level and began to lecture me.

It was seriously angry that I created a board without thinking properly.

Naturally, I could not carelessly blurt out that I suddenly recalled

an anime about flying in the air with a board so I said that I purely just thought of it.

” ... I thought I could ride the air waves. Moreover, I thought that I would be able to regain my posture if I made a foothold.”

” ... You could have either attacked me, the being who was manipulating the wind or cut a path through the wind using the power of the Thunder Dragon or there were various other methods but ... I would have been saddened if flying in the air became a traumatic experience for you.”

” ... Hn? What kind of training was this?”

“Isn’t it obviously training to fly in the sky? Isn’t it often said that it is a man’s romance to fly in the sky?”

” ... Then why did you make an invisible wall in the air?”

“Even winged dragons with low intelligence can create magical power barrier and avoid fluctuations in magical power if such a wall with magical power is created so it was special training.”

I wonder why ... talking with the Wind Dragon is seriously taxing.

It most likely planned it to let me enjoy flying in the sky.

Although I could feel its intention, to be honest, it was an unbelievably difficult setting so it shouldn't have been part of the content when I had just started floating in the air.

Even though I should have known that the common sense of Dragons and Spirits would not match with that of humans, this time, I neglected it so I should have been more careful.

Well, I found that I won't die and considering the attractions, it might actually be interesting.

“Incidentally, do you know when would Nadia wake up?”

《It's up to Dragon God-sama, but she should wake up within a couple of days.》

“Wait a minute, if it goes poorly then does it mean she will stay like that for a couple of days?”

《It's up to Dragon God-sama.》

Yup, for long-lived races, 1 day or 1 hour probably won't be that much different to them.

“She can't just stay in that position for so long. Please let me move her to a safe place.”

《I don't mind.》

«I'll leave it to you if you have any method in mind.»

Thus I opened the Hermit's Coffin from the Hermit Key series and housed Nadia in it.

If human common sense doesn't work then I probably don't need to use honorifics too.

“Well then, Water Dragon and Wind Dragon, sorry to keep you waiting. I'd like to ask one thing though, how far do I need to go to get your recognitions? I would like an indicator?”

«Sage, it doesn't take that long. But I will say that it depends on yourself too.»

«Sage, first become capable of fully utilizing our brethrens' power.»

«Then show us how you utilize those powers.»

«What we desire is your resolution.»

It was somewhat nostalgic like how I could do nothing but be defeated in the past.

I pumped myself as I repeated in my head the most important thing about this battle, which is I won't die, so I decided to

genuinely tackle the challenges from the Twin Dragons.

Chapter 187: Items Left Behind By The Twin Dragons

After I had my whole body frozen, experienced the condition where my feet doesn't physically touch the ground and endured the treatment I received from the Twin Dragons, a week had passed in the blink of an eye.

Within that time, I did not feel any growth but the treatment I had to go through had steadily become more severe.

Even so, because I did not give up and continued to work hard, I no longer needed to keep defending against getting frozen and even if I am sent flying into the air, the times I faced air walls decreased.

Incidentally, I was not allowed to use Area Barrier so I frequently used High Heal and Extra Heal instead but there was one thing that changed.

High Heal could revive cells that had been lost ... I once again appreciated Holy Attribute Magic as I endured the handling that is the Twin Dragon's trial.

《Sage, it looks like you have managed to somewhat move.》

《It's like you have grown to become someone completely different from the person who first came here.》

“It’s because I hated getting frozen and shot into the air every time.”

Even though those words came out of my mouth, I had never been praised by the Twin Dragons so I was pleased.

《Luciel, water can turn to ice and can turn to steam. The possibilities are endless.》

《Luciel, wind may be formless but it is also solid. It can become your wings or it can also be used as a barrier.》

” ... What’s this all of the sudden?”

I was shocked that they suddenly called my name and because of all that has happened, I was especially vigilant against them but an unexpected message echoed in my head.

『Piron』【Title: Divine Protection of the Water Dragon acquired.】

『Piron』【Title: Divine Protection of the Wind Dragon acquired.】

” ... What’s the meaning of this?”

I was troubled as I received the divine protection even though I had not achieved anything.

I thought that I would receive the divine protection after I properly dealt a blow to them instead of the game we've been having until now but the result was slightly anticlimactic.

《Luciel, you have shown us your unwavering spirit and your courage to never back down.》

《Luciel, if it's you, one day will come when you will be able to adequately utilize our powers.》

The Twin Dragon stopped floating in the air and stood on the ground after descending.

Then, seeing my troubled look, they explained to me the reason why they gave their divine protections.

《The remaining time we have is extremely little.》

《If that's the case, it would probably be faster if we show you the power of a real dragon.》

“What are you talking about, I don't understand ... ”

The Twin Dragons were now talking as if they were about to disappear but there's no way I could understand it like that so I urged them to continue.

The Twin Dragons looked at each other and spoke frankly.

《We have also been placed under the curse of the Evil God.》

《Even now, we still do not know how it entered this strong barrier that defends Nelldal.》

《It can be said that luckily, we were both together when the Evil God appeared so we were able to turn the tables on it but that battle destroyed the magic circle that maintains Nelldal in the air.》

《We have been trying all along to restore it.》

What has the Wind Spirit been doing exactly? For it to suddenly invade ... seriously, what is it doing?

Feelings of anger welled up without any outlet of release.

” ... Is there no possibility that it was done by humans?”

《Even though it releases maliciousness, it is still a God. If it was done by a human, it most likely manipulated the human to do it so it can't be helped.》

《Thankfully, we successfully restored the magic circle so Nelldal will not fall.》

“If that's the case, then when did you two get cursed?”

《It seems like the curse would activate if we restored the magic circle.》

《To the extent that even we would not notice, it was an ingenious trick.》

I noticed that the Twin Dragons were trying to calm me but I was angry as the Evil God was the only being that was interfering with me in this world.

Furthermore, if it could seal the Reincarnation Dragons that acts as the core of this world, I would like to ask their thoughts on the failure of the world administrator.

However, I really didn't expect that the Twin Dragons right in front of my eyes were cursed.

They have a firm grasp on their consciousness, can move well and we could mutually understand each other during conversations with the exception of common sense but above all else, I didn't see any behavior from them that indicated that they were suffering at all.

Perhaps their symptoms are weak and it can be treated? I thought and suggested to the two of them to allow me to dispel it.

“Water Dragon and Wind Dragon, at my current ability, I should be able to dispel the Evil God's curse so would you let me try?”

《Our curse has already reached the stage where it can't be dispelled.》

《We've been using a method to mutually erase the pain from the curse and frankly, we can no longer move our bodies well.》

“!? Is that why we have not battled other than the very first battle?”

However, the Twin Dragons didn't answer that and looked like they decided to show it through actions and once again floated up to the sky.

《It's also about time the Priestess returned.》

《So, we will now give you the final trial.》

《《Purify us.》》

The Twin Dragons sought for purification and made it my trial.

《Make use of everything you learned here and make us yield to you.》

《Release us Twin Dragons from the Evil God's curse and take over our power.》

It seems like they offered their own body for the trial.

I was moved but requesting for battle as a trial is seriously painful.

But as Sir Rainstar had said, If the fundamental four attribute Dragons are released and the Hero doesn't lose to the Demon Lord, doing this would protect the world.

The most important thing to think about before I retire is to not have to fight against the Demon race, Demon Lord and Evil God.

After my internal conflict, I replied.

" ... Understood. But because my magic power has changed since I became a Sage, not a single bone may remain after I purify you two okay?"

《《Gahahah》》

《What grand remarks even before you fight us.》

《If there's anything remaining, we'll entrust it to you.》

《If it's not sufficient, carve all of our power into your body.》

《And show us you can overcome the final trial.》

《《Here we come.》》

It would have been better if the Twin Dragons' trial was to save the two of them.

However, the Twin Dragons won't give me time to spare to think any more about it.

I suddenly felt fluctuations in magical power, a sudden breath attack from my blind spot behind me and from the sky.

“Holy Dragon, protect this body. Thunder Dragon, leave everything behind.”

I unconsciously called out to the Holy Dragon and Thunder Dragon in reflex even quicker than my mind could react to it.

After the Holy Dragon dwelled in my body and the Thunder Dragon wound around my feet, the next instant, my vision blurred as the scenery passed by at high speeds.

Convinced that I had avoided the attacks, I activated Sanctuary Circle via No Chant.

Because I didn't expect to have earned the time to weave a magic circle to do it via Magic Circle Chant.

I generated the Sanctuary Circle with No Chant and it circled around the bodies of the Twin Dragons but I felt like I caught a glimpse of the Holy Dragon.

The match was over in an instant.

When I looked towards the place I was originally standing on, the ground looked like it was scooped up by something leaving a crater there and furthermore, there were many scars on the ground that I imagined were left by many ice spears piercing that spot.

If I was late for even an instant in avoiding, it wouldn't have been strange if I died normally from being exposed to that rain of attacks.

I shuddered at the thought of what would have happened if I didn't notice the magical power of my surroundings.

《Great job using the Thunder Dragon's power to avoid my attack from your blind spot.》

《This is just like the light of affection from the Holy Dragon.》

Bathed in the pale light of Sanctuary Circle, the Twin Dragons smiled looking like they were content.

“Water Dragon, Wind Dragon ... my life would have scattered in

an instant if you two were serious.”

《That’s true too.》

《Even so, you have splendidly overcome our final trial.》

《You can feel proud of it.》

The Twin Dragons’ words were unusually warm.

《《A day would probably come where we meet again.》》

《Until that time comes, please fully utilize our power.》

《I pray that you use our power correctly.》

After saying that, a light blue light and a green light was absorbed into my Illusionary Sword and necklace.

《Sage Luciel, I ask that you stop the invasion of the Demon race and we leave this world in your hands until the Hero appears.》

《Sage Luciel, protect the world before it is governed by miasma.》

The topic suddenly became too big so I couldn’t fully acknowledge their request but the Twin Dragons most likely knew that I can’t protect everything.

” ... I can only do as much as I can physically achieve.”

That’s why as usual, I replied with emphasis that I would protect those within my range.

《Sage Luciel, if the world is really faced with a crisis, remove the seal on Rafiruna. 》

《It should respond to you now that you have become a Sage.》

” Rafiruna? Who is that?”

《《Work hard for your aim of dying of old age. Gahahah.》》

Without answering my question, the Twin Dragons’ body became corporeal and disappeared.

“Why do the Dragon race always say what they want to say and not reply to the important things that I want to confirm before disappearing!!”

I could no longer hold it in without screaming.

The Twin Dragons left behind a bow and a vase after they disappeared but I only noticed them after some time had passed.

Thus, having released the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon from their seals, I left the sealed door without waiting for Nadia's return.

Chapter 188: One-Way Passage

After I safely released the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon, I noticed the bow and vase the Twin Dragons left behind after they disappeared and I returned via the way I came after I collected them.

While walking, the 'Rafiruna' the Twin Dragon told me about right before they disappeared left a hazy feeling in my heart as I tried to think of its identity such that it halved the joy I felt from releasing the Twin Dragons.

And then I convinced myself that I would refresh myself by throwing that hazy feeling onto the Wind Spirit and I felt my footsteps become slightly lighter.

However, after I climbed the stairs and exited the sealed door, I was hit by an unexpected situation.

“Why isn't the magic elevator here?”

There was also no sign of the Wind Spirit and Lydia but thinking about it calmly, my training with the Twin Dragons lasted for a couple of days and the two of them couldn't have remained down here for that long considering they didn't bring any food.

I returned to where we came down at and carefully examined the location where the magic elevator was but there was no mechanism to bring the magic elevator down and it seemed like there was no way to go up from below.

” ... What a defective product. Or is it a system to not let the person escape to the outside if anybody breaks in here.”

As I looked up at the height of the magic elevator that an ordinary human would not be able to reach, I was at a loss as to whether to use the power of the Wind Dragon.

“If I fell just before I reached it, it might even be instant death. Even if I could reach it, I can only hang onto the bottom of the magic elevator and I don’t have any means to operate it ...”

If it was going to be like this, I regretted passing the magic communication bead to Lydia or I should have exchanged for a magic communication bead from Orford-san.

Furthermore, I thought about the Telepathic Communication skill but that skill has a restriction of a couple tens of meters range when it has a low skill level so there won’t be any meaning even if I acquired that skill with SP.

“What should I do?”

My mind was blank so I began to organize information from scratch.

For all the labyrinths I’ve been to until now, including the cave where the Earth Dragon was at, a returning magic circle would appear.

However this time, maybe because this place was converted to no longer be a labyrinth, the magic circle did not appear.

If the return magic circle was purposely erased, then the chances of me escaping this place is ... !!

“Now that I think about it, there wasn’t the Evil God’s magic stone there and if the Twin Dragons fought with the Evil God at that location, won’t the magic stone and magic circle that they use a confidential technique to make Nelldal float be there too?”

When I thought out loud, more and more images came into mind.

“There must be an emergency escape exit when designing a place like this.”

If it was about time Nadia returns, perhaps I’m supposed to wait here and I prayed that I won’t cross without meeting Lydia and the Wind Spirit when they come to fetch us ...

The situation won’t change no matter how much I begged for something that is not there so I decided to once again enter the sealed door.

I noticed a faint light leak out from behind the sealed door and headed towards that direction first.

Following that, unlike the large sealed door, I came across a small door of about one meter tall that was emitting light.

When I approached the door, I heard human-like voices but it was extremely soft so I couldn't catch anything.

“Is anyone there? I'm opening the door okay? Uo!?”

I called out just in case before I opened the small door and was faced with an avalanche of gold coins coming from the inside.

However, it wasn't an avalanche of only gold coins.

Equipment, magic tools, furniture and other items were spilling out as if they were being pushed out of the door.

” ... Why was such a large amount of items placed in there?”

There might be a possibility that a life was at stake so I quickly stored all of it in my magic bag.

As I was collecting the items, the inside cleared up such that I could peek in and I saw the figures of Lydia and the Wind Spirit.

“Are you alright?”

But their replies were poor and there's a possibility that they

were squashed in that condition for a long time.

I immediately cast Extra Heal and when their bodies emitted light and they also seemed like they were breathing, I could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

“Maybe they aren’t waking up because they were unconscious. ... Nevertheless, what happened here?”

When I looked around the room, I saw several floating bookshelves like they were from a fairy tale magic archive.

“Wait, is this perhaps the real magic archive?”

“That’s right.”

I thought that I would look around until they regained consciousness but for some reason, there was a reply to my mumblings.

When I turned back, I saw that Orford-san had gotten up.

“You’re alright.”

“Orford’s physical body was on the verge of death but it somehow survived with your magic and it looks like your magic even treated the stomach disease he’s been afflicted with.”

“Healing magic can’t cure diseases. Leaving that aside, is this the real magic archive?”

“Umu. Those who are allowed to enter here are only those who possess the Spirit’s divine protection or those who I originally acknowledge having no distortions in their hearts ... I certainly didn’t expect the items that the Wind Dragon was hoarding to appear and fall on us.”

“That’s because I released the Water Dragon and Wind Dragon from the Evil God’s curse.”

“What!? Evil God ... I can’t believe it.”

The Wind Spirit reacted like it was really surprised but even so I still had some strong suspicions towards this spirit.

I had trouble comprehending how the Wind Spirit who supports Nelldal with the Twin Dragons not notice the abnormalities in the Twin Dragons.

If it was true that it didn’t meet them for decades, I would then certainly like to ask why was there a gap between them.

” ... At this stage, it doesn’t matter if you really didn’t know or you’re playing a fool. But why was it that a Wind Spirit like you didn’t notice the Evil God’s incursion!”

I knew that there was no meaning in asking such a question but I

had to ask no matter what.

” ... It’s because the Wind Dragon and Water Dragons are way too amiable despite being Dragons. Including Rain, they have drunk wine with four others since Nelldal was made.”

“Four? And they even drank wine with them?”

“That’s right. Dragons and Spirits can use magical power to turn humanoid. Well, it uses an enormous amount of magical power so we don’t usually do it but because at that time, Rain bore the magical power consumption by transferring it to them so there was a time limit but they became humans.”

... In the case of Spirits, I thought it was by manifesting them so it might be possible but if it’s true that he can even supply dragons to do so, he was bearing the cost of the transformation of one Spirit and two Dragons.

It was after he unknowingly defeated the Demon Lord so it wasn’t impossible to imagine but if that’s the case then won’t Sir Rainstar even be able to summon heroic spirits?

If he did that, I believe I would have been able to live a carefree life.

I considered asking Sir Rainstar that if I have the opportunity to once again encounter him at Rockford a couple of years later.

Leaving that aside, should I return to the main topic?

” ... I’m thinking that something actually happened but were they keeping you at a distance?”

” ... Once, when the Wind Dragon and the Water Dragon had a quarrel and they were about to make Nelldal fall from the sky, I had many disputes with them. After that incident, they never showed their faces to me or met me.”

Looking at the Wind Spirit with an elderly appearance that looked like he was about to cry, I could no longer blame him any further.

The atmosphere won’t return to normal and I was troubled as I averted my eyes when I noticed that there were no traces left of the door I supposedly came in through.

” ... The small door has disappeared?”

“It’s a one-way door where one can only enter here from there but without my permission, a person would not be able to see it.”

I thought that it was an amazing trick but he said it a little proudly so I changed the topic.

” ... Before the Wind Dragon and Water Dragon disappeared, they said that a real crisis will befall the world and told me to remove the seal on Rafiruna but who is Rafiruna? Human, Dragon or

Spirit? Or is it something like a Holy Sword?”

“Fumu. It would be better if you ask that Pope Fluna about it. As long as I don’t know Rafiruna-sama’s true intention, I cannot say any more.”

It seemed like she’s either a Human, a Dragon or a Spirit.

It looked like it would be meaningless to ask any further so I housed Lydia who still had not woken up in the Hermit’s Coffin and decided to return to my room for now.

Chapter 189: Rumor

When I left the room after talking with the Wind Spirit about the Twin Dragons, I arrived at the archive that was called the Magic Archive.

I was feeling surprised that the real Magic Archive was actually the room of forbidden texts when the Wind Spirit called out to me as I was going to return to my own room.

“Luciel, if it’s the current you, I can allow you entry to this place if you want?”

“There’s no need for that at the moment. I did not visit Nelldal to seek power.”

“I see. Then will you be returning to the surface?”

“There’s something I am troubled about so I will return after resolving that.”

“I’ll help if it’s something I can help with?”

” ... Then, just one thing. A magic stone-like nucleus and a return magic circle will definitely appear in all the labyrinths I’ve been to release the Dragons from their seals but even though Nelldal resembles a labyrinth, this time those items did not appear.”

“Umu, what about that are you bothered with?”

“The return magic circle won’t pose any problems but because touching the nucleus that resembles an enormous magic stone will cause the Evil God to appear, I advise you to never touch it if you ever go to a place where that nucleus is likely to be at.”

” ... Even if I find it, I will make sure nobody will approach it.”

“Thank you.”

The Wind Spirit looked like it began to think about something so I headed to my own room.

When I exited from the Magic Archive, the corridor was dyed in an orange color.

“Dusk ... now that I think about it, I’m feeling hungry.”

My feet carried me towards the canteen instead of my own room.

“Maybe I’ll make something simple ... rather than that, now that I can once again use Purification, I guess it is fine no matter how messily I dismantle the stuff.”

It was my first time cooking after I recovered my Holy Attribute Magic so I was troubled with what to make as I arrived at the canteen and noticed that there were people I did not expect waiting

there.

It was the Earl's daughter Elinas Meinrich from the Principality of Blange who recently borrowed money from me as well as her followers.

“Luciel-sama, where have you been these few days? There's been an emergency so I have been searching for you the whole time.”

It felt like she was panicking but it was the same feeling every time I met her so I first asked her about the issue.

“Sorry, I had to seclude myself a bit for a task ... what's the emergency?”

The three of them looked like it was something that was difficult to talk about when I asked so I thought that they came to borrow money once again but just the other day they were overjoyed about how their research was going well, perhaps it was premature?

However, my thought process stopped for a brief second after hearing the words that came from the Earl daughter's mouth.

“Erm ... A rumor has been going around in my country that Luciel-sama has been punished by the Gods, resulting in the loss of his Healer job and he can no longer use Holy Attribute Magic so I was told to look for accurate information.”

Leaving aside the point as to whether an S-rank Healer was

punished by the Gods, the fact that the knowledge of how I lost my job and the usage of Holy Attribute Magic was spread to the other countries was the more serious problem.

Even though three months has passed since I came here, normally it would be impossible for other countries to know that.

One of the reasons why my thinking stopped was because the number of people who knew about it was limited.

Who was it exactly? I was getting lost in a vortex of thought but I realized that the Earl's daughter was looking at me and in the first place, she was ordered by her country to investigate me but why did she directly ask me? I wanted to know.

” ... Just now you mentioned that you were told to investigate right? If it was a command from your country, why did you directly come to inform me?”

When I asked that, she smiled and passed me a leather bag as she replied.

“I don't wish to return evil for good. Thanks to Luciel-sama, I've proven the result of my research and I can continue to stay in Nelldal this year too. Ah, this is the gold you lent me. Truly, thank you very much.”

... It looks like she wasn't just a brazen and deplorable person.

I guess she really was quite desperate that time.

I totally did not see her as a person who would value righteousness but I apologized in my heart for that judgment.

” ... It was because Nadia and Lydia asked me so please thank them when you meet them. More importantly, what was the source of that information.”

“Does that mean you really lost your Healer job and can’t use Holy Attribute Magic anymore?”

Without answering my question about the source of the information, she looked at me with extremely anxious eyes as she asked if I lost my Healer job and whether I could or could not use Holy Attribute Magic.

I felt that she was genuinely worried about me.

“It’s true that I’m no longer a Healer.”

” ... I told my country that that wasn’t the case but what are your prospects of using Holy Attribute Magic then?”

She gave a look of despair when she heard my reply and immediately asked if there is hope for me to use Holy Attribute Magic.

“I can use it. 「Middle Heal」.”

I cast Middle Heal on the Earl Daughter with a smile.

She was worried as her hands and skin were dry due to continued research and she appealed to me to use Holy Attribute Magic so I treated her.

“Ah, how pleasant ... as expected, the rumor that you can't use Holy Attribute Magic was a hoax after all.”

Unlike before, the Earl's daughter and her two followers looked like they were somewhat relieved.

Who exactly are these people? While thinking about that, I asked if there were any other news.

” ... Were there any other interesting reports?”

“There were reports of Demons appearing in the Principality of Blange. Because of that, I heard that there was a request to dispatch the Paladin Corps.”

If she's referring to Paladin Corps that can be sent for an expedition, does it mean it's Lumina-san and the others? They've probably been dispatched before.

However, the problem is would Lumina-san and the others win if

they fought with the Demons?

“Was that a recent report too?”

“Yeah. That was received three days ago. I asked the other researchers if Demons only appeared in my country but it seems like there have been reports of Demons appearing in various countries.”

I felt uncomfortable knowing that the Paladins were on the move but the Nobles probably don't want to die so they most likely have already hired mercenaries and private troops and the Principality of Blange also have their own army so they would probably not have a joint operation with the Paladins so soon.

Nevertheless, Demons huh ...

“So what about the damages?”

“None, it seems like there were only sightings. But such reports have been spreading everywhere so the situation on the surface is getting suspicious.”

“I see ...”

I took a deep breath and calmed my mind before organizing the information.

At times like these, if I don't make a priority list and take action, I would fall behind on all fronts.

Firstly, those at the location who knew about the loss of my Healer job and my inability to use Holy Attribute Magic were Shisho, Lionel, Cathy, Kefin, Nadia, and Lydia.

The others would be Pope-sama ... and Catherine-san.

I don't want to suspect them but it's certain that somebody leaked the information.

If this turns into a negative campaign, it would once again cause the Church to fall into ruin.

If that is the opponent's aim, for example, if I am part of the Demon race ... if I am in the position to command the Demon race, I would probably gather information around the vicinity of the areas where the Demon race have not achieved results.

In that case, they would naturally obtain and search for information about me who can become their natural enemy.

Assuming if there was information of a possibility that I can't use Holy Attribute Magic within the reports, maybe they would try to slip into the Saint Schull Church to verify the information?

Or they might place spies to bring back information ... with transformation abilities like Orford-san, anything might be

possible.

As the Demon race is at war with the Church, they might attempt to measure the Church's war potential.

Well, that's assuming that the enemy really is the Empire ... this time, I felt uneasy about something but I couldn't pinpoint what it was.

If this was a strategy to decrease the number of Paladins even a little, then the true target would be the Saint Schull Allied Nations but as long as we can't grasp the real identity of the enemy, there is still a need for information from the surface.

Well, if they were attacked by the Demon race, they would naturally contact me ... ah, nobody knows that I've changed from a Healer to a Sage and can once again use Holy Attribute Magic huh.

If I'm someone they deem will get in the way even if I come to their aid, then won't the possibility of them contacting me be infinitely small?

"Excuse me?"

I was lost in thought and realized that I once again forgot about the Earl's daughter.

"Erm Luciel-sama, would you be heading towards the surface?"

” ... I might have to. Plunging into a fight, getting embroiled in a conspiracy or having people aiming for my life, I absolutely hate it but ... even so, I still have things that I wish to protect.”

” ... If that’s the case, please hold onto this.”

She offered me a decorated dagger.

“This is?”

“In the Principality, bloodlines take precedence over all else. This is my protection sword, those of pedigree below that of the Earl rank do not hold the qualifications to order a person holding this sword.”

” ... Isn’t it an extremely important item then?”

“Yes. That’s why, please come return it to me one day. If you hold onto that, I believe I won’t leave Nadia and Lydia with unpleasant memories of me.”

” ... I don’t know if I will go to Blange but I will gratefully accept this.”

“I look forward to meeting again.”

“Yes.”

The three of them left the canteen right after they finished their business.

“I didn’t expect a time to come when I would feel it was a great choice to help them at that time ... well then, maybe I’ll think about what to do from now while cooking.”

I decided to first fill my stomach as I prayed that if possible, I would like to avoid combat on the surface.

Chapter 190: Holy Attribute Magic Saves The Heart

Making stew is the best when there's a need to think about things.

I recalled someone telling me that in the past so I placed monster meat that I had thoroughly pre-treated into a stockpot and stewed it together with vegetables.

I was making the so-called bouillon.

It was something that would not fail even if I don't monitor it so it was perfect for thinking.

Well obviously, that won't fill my empty stomach so I took out ready-made food from my magic bag and ate though ...

I patiently extracted the lye, intently let it simmer without letting it boil and waited for the flavor to condense until the bouillon in the stockpot was complete.

Memories of the Adventurer's Guild guildmaster at the Holy Capital, Granz getting angry at me when he taught me for not being able to differentiate lye and flavor components well resurfaced.

“To ask an amateur to ascertain lye and flavor components,

thinking back it certainly feels like it was quite spartan.”

I chuckled on my own as I thought about what to do next.

The information Elinas-san told me is, as expected, not at the level that can be ignored.

If the rumor has been going around other countries, then the entirety of the Saint Schull Allied Nations must know of it too.

If that’s the case, isn’t there a risk of me getting chased by an inquisition?

If by chance that happens, won’t the corrupt healers I crushed retaliate by further abolishing the guidelines I was involved in?

To begin with, if they pursue the reason why I lost my Holy Attribute Magic, won’t the lives of Shisho and Lionel who I saved after much effort be in danger?

... I’ll be at a loss if this was dealt with poorly.

Wait a minute, Pope-sama told me to not contact her because there are eavesdroppers right?

Then can’t I just use that against them?

I immediately took out a magic communication bead from my magic bag and contacted Pope-sama.

When I did that, Pope-sama instantly replied.

《Luciel, what happened? I've told you that there's a danger that this would be intercepted when you are at Nelldal.》

It felt rare for Pope-sama to speak in a slightly angry tone but I replied to lead the conversation.

“Pope-sama, that's not important right now. It seems like there's a rumor going around about me with jumbled up true and strange facts. Moreover, it's happening in other countries.”

《... What do you mean?》

“I happened upon it by chance when I was speaking with the researchers here about a rumor that I lost my Healer job and that it was because of God's punishment. Not only that, there's also a rumor that I can't even use Holy Attribute Magic and I thought that maybe that rumor is widespread even in the Holy Capital so I quickly contacted you.”

《... If it's even in the other countries ...》

I realized that the rumor was already going around in the Holy Capital from Pope-sama's mutterings.

“Pope-sama, regarding my job, I think it might be better if we disclose that I had promoted from Healer to Sage. And that the reason why I came to Nelldal was to acquire other magic attributes apart from Holy Attribute, if we don’t dispel the rumors as mere rumors, disturbing elements might make their move.”

《 ... Do you have results? 》

“Yes. Well, it should dismiss the rumors. Leaving that aside, it seems like there are movements from the Demon race but no matter how kind Pope-sama is, I doubted my ears when I heard that Pope-sama did not contact me when the church was in danger.”

I spoke in as clear a voice as possible for it to reach the other side.

《 ... Luciel, then will you be returning immediately? 》

Unlike the previous voice, I could feel overflowing happiness from Pope-sama’s voice.

“Understood. I will report this incident to the Magic Guild guildmaster Orford-san and return promptly.”

《Take care.》

“Yes!”

I cut the communication there.

Just when I cut the communication, Nadia and Lydia came out from the Hermit's Coffin.

“It looks like you two have awakened.”

“Luciel-sama, you're alright?”

“I smell something nice.”

Nadia's spirit was stretched thin from meeting the Twin Dragons while Lydia was crushed by various items after I defeated the Twin Dragons but it seems like they were both alright.

“I'd love to listen to your questions but before that, I wish to inform you two of my decision.”

The two of them nodded and I talked about the exchange I had just now.

“And so, we will have to postpone the leisurely stroll through the streets of Nelldal to the next opportunity but I will definitely create an opportunity to bring you two here once again so please bear with it.”

“There's no helping it if that's the circumstance.”

“Well if Luciel-sama will bring us back here, I’ll bear with it this time. More importantly, Luciel-sama ... I’m hungry.”

I felt myself naturally smile when Lydia said that with an embarrassed expression as I prepared a meal for all of us.

I stored the pot I was in the process of cooking with into my magic bag and replaced it with ready-made dishes.

Then, I listened to the two of them.

True to her Dragon God Priestess title, Nadia met with the Dragon God and can apparently make dragons her kin and Dragon Magician was added to her job.

And as if to not put the Spirit King’s Blessing to shame, Lydia learned to summon Greater Spirits.

“However, I will have to fight the dragons and make them yield.”

“Both my magical power and skill level are insufficient to use Greater Spirit Summoning.”

” ... Nobody would have to go through hardship if you can use new powers so easily. Well, we all obtained new powers so let’s work hard to make them our own.”

“”Yes!””

After we finished our meals, we headed to the guildmaster's room.

As Lydia and I have received the Spirit's Blessings, we could go anywhere without hindrance like we were holding onto the Magic Guild free pass.

Nadia tried to climb the stairs behind the reception but she was blocked by an invisible wall. However, by connecting hands with Lydia, she could climb the stairs.

We arrived in front of the guildmaster's room and a voice called out when I knocked on the door.

“Who is it?”

“It's Luciel, is it alright if I have a bit of your time?”

” ... Please enter.”

“Please excuse me.”

I opened the door because I received permission to enter but it seems like there was already a guest present.

“What’s wrong?”

I was confused as to whether it was the Wind Spirit or Orford-san present but more importantly, I hesitated from speaking about the main topic when the previous guest was not someone I knew.

“You already had a guest?”

“Umu. But if you came all the way here, it means that you have an urgent request right?”

Nevertheless, I would prefer to speak to him without anybody else present so I intended to come back another time but Orford-san and the man facing him stood up from their chairs and turned to me before speaking.

“It seems like it’s because I am here, S-rank Healer Luciel-sama ... no, you’re no longer a Healer right? Then now it is just Luciel-dono.”

The owner of the voice seemed to be a man but because his face was hidden by a mask, I could not see his appearance.

What caught my attention was the man’s tone, his attitude was as if he was acquainted with me and furthermore, it felt like he was directing hatred at me.

I thought I did not do much to gain grudges but maybe it’s the Empire? I corrected my posture and tried to identify where this

person was from.

“I acknowledge that my job is no longer Healer but the S-rank Healer was a title that was placed upon me by the Healer’s Guild in the first place. More importantly, I don’t believe I have any acquaintances who wears a mask to cover their true face but who are you?”

“I am a new researcher from the Rubruk Kingdom but I wonder what’s my name?”

It looked like he was acting slightly belligerent but Orford-san played the role of calming the situation.

It seems like it’s not the Wind Spirit.

” ... It’s truly cruel running into an old acquaintance. Even though you have not done anything against me, I still feel hatred towards you ... I am the pathetic slave that failed to get you to buy me at Ienith.”

Said the masked man, acknowledging his own error.

“Slave at Ienith? ... Ah, perhaps the one that time ...”

“So you remember me even though we’ve only met once. Then once again, I am the newly appointed Baron of the Rubruk Kingdom, Maxim von Wisdom.”

” ... And the reason for your hatred towards me?”

“The thought that perhaps you, once the best Healer in the world, could have treated this.”

The man ... Maxim took off his mask to reveal an inflamed face as if burnt by something sharp.

However, Maxim’s injuries did not end there, he took off the robe he was wearing and miasma began to leak out.

” ... That is?”

“It’s something like a Magical Engraving for a curse. In the Empire, they tamper with the body in human experiments and plant magic stones within the body. Well, I lost consciousness from the intense pain but they judged that I had died so I was in a mountain of corpses when I woke up.”

” ... Nobody in the Rubruk Kingdom was capable of treating that?”

“Yes. It’s great that they somehow pried the magic stone out but because my body leaks miasma, I’ve become an existence that resembles the demon race. There are no Healers in existence who are able to heal this. But, I clung to the thought that you, once the bearer of the greatest Holy Attribute Magic among humans ...”

In addition to understanding that his resentment towards me is completely unjustified, he probably couldn't prevent himself from lashing out at me as the sole person who had the possibility of treating him.

His hatred towards the Empire was most likely too strong, causing his negative feelings to break through the limit and he probably became someone who hates the world.

And that anger that has no outlet likely led to his previous attitude.

Well, because I slightly understand that feeling, I decided to help him just this time.

I was feeling somewhat uncomfortable in my heart for not saving him that time either.

I believed that meeting him once again there was my fate guided by Supreme Luck-sensei ...

“Fumu. It seems like Wisdom-dono has a misunderstanding, I can still utilize Holy Attribute Magic you know?”

“Ha?”

Just seconds ago his expression was mixed with sadness and insanity but that one statement caused him to freeze.

“Like I said, instead of a Healer, I’ve become a Sage so Holy Attribute Magic is no issue ... but strictly speaking, it has been powered up.”

“The, then the possibility of treating this body?”

He was flustered in a way unimaginable from the dark and melancholic aura he wrapped around himself.

“Well, leaving aside whether I can treat you or not, if you are an Undead then you will face instant death but if you are alive, I will definitely save you.”

After I said that, he nodded firmly.

“I will pay anything as compensation. My hatred towards the Empire will not disappear for the rest of my life but I will even endure from taking my revenge. Please, please heal me.”

I wonder what happened, for him to even willingly stop himself from taking revenge even though he was so persistent on it? However, I wanted to have him make a pledge so it was perfect. Nevertheless, to think that he would suddenly use honorific language ...

“Then, please make a pledge. As compensation for this treatment, to disclose all information that you know of and to never act hostile towards me for your entire lifetime.”

” ... Does that even include state secrets?”

“I don’t care if it doesn’t concern the Saint Schull Allied Nations or myself but if you know of any dark secrets of the Empire then I intend to hear it all.”

“If that’s the case then I’ll make the pledge. I, Maxim von Wisdom, pledge to disclose information and never act hostile against Luciel-sama as compensation for treatment.”

When he said that, light descended onto Maxim.

“Well then, it might be slightly painful but please maintain your consciousness.”

I cast Dispel, Recover, Sanctuary Circle, Extra Heal and finally Purification in sequence.

In the beginning, Maxim looked like he was enduring the pain but it seemed like he no longer felt pain by the time I cast Sanctuary Circle.

However, the problem began there.

The moment I cast Extra Heal just to be safe, his posture collapsed and he fell over.

And then, both his arms, his left leg and an eyeball fell onto the floor one after the other.

It looked like he had prosthetic hands, limbs, and eyes.

His face was colored with shock and he began to tremble but I understood that it was not from anger.

He checked his own hands and leg countless times and tears began to flow from his now recovered eye.

Then, Purification cleaned him up and the treatment was complete.

“The treatment is over. Well done.”

He was at a loss for words and knelt to the ground before taking a praying position.

At that instant, I had a slight deja vu when memories of that time when I performed the same thing to Lionel and the others at Ienith surfaced.

“Orford-san, I wish to return to the surface but before that, would it be alright if I listen to what he has to say first?”

“Hou? Ooh of course. You can just use this room.”

Thus, before returning, another task came up.

Chapter 191: Rumor And Belief

It's only been a little over a year since I met him at Ienith.

Even though only that small amount of time has passed, the atmosphere around him makes it feel like he is a completely different person.

In my memory, he had pride and dignity as a noble and despite his air of immaturity, it felt like he had an overflowing sense of justice.

Even though he became a slave because he lost in the war and was trapped in his desire for revenge on the Empire, I remember feeling that his way of thinking was still rough and naive.

And then encountering him after a long time, the air around the man in front of me was completely different from the air he had that time.

Because he had a somewhat tense air around him like it had been sharpened and honed, he gave off an aggressive impression.

Maybe his naivety was wiped off after experiencing hell once, or ... well nevertheless, I have no interest in staring at a man's face for an extended period of time so I'll scrutinize the information he has and think of my future actions to take.

“Firstly, where did you hear the rumor that I was no longer a

Healer and was punished by the God?”

“That information passed around about half a month ago. I first heard of it during a gathering of nobles and by that time, the majority of the nobles already knew about it. Just in case you’re interested, the source of the information was not specified.”

Half a month ... it seems short but it is very long.

However, that information was a mere rumor.

Unless somebody attests to it, it shouldn’t be anything more than a rumor.

” ... I’m not saying that you easily believe in rumors but it seemed like Wisdom-dono believed it too?”

“Yes. Actually, immediately after hearing the rumors, the Rubruk Kingdom sent letters to the Saint Schull Allied Nations and the Healer’s Guild to verify the information but there were no replies at all.”

” ... And that is strange?”

Wisdom-dono nodded and explained to me the reason in sequence for believing the rumors.

“As you know, my Rubruk Kingdom has been in a prolonged war

with the Empire and we have requested for the dispatch of Luciel-sama countless times.”

” ... This is the first time I heard of it.”

“Well, they probably don’t want to send an S-rank Healer that only appears every few decades to a conflict zone. Well because of that, after continual refusals in various situations ... this time the rumors overlapped and whispers of maybe the S-rank Healer actually doesn’t exist began.”

” ... I see. It’s true that there’s no smoke without a fire. However, even with that ...”

“Yeah. I’m familiar with nobles so I didn’t really believe it. However, for some reason, the Church began to rush to erase those rumors.”

Why would they do that? If they do such a thing ... wait, don’t tell me it’s a conspiracy? Somebody induced it ... or maybe they incited it.

” ... So you believe the rumors to be true because of that cover-up?”

“Yeah. I judged that it had high credibility.”

There were no contradictions in his words.

If that's the case, Shisho and Lionel are in danger.

I took a deep breath, switched gears and changed the topic.

“If that's the case then I want to quickly return to the surface... before that, I would like to hear about the Empire next. You said that you were experimented upon but do you know why they were burying magic stones in the human body?”

“In my case, it was an experiment to increase magical power amount by embedding magic stones in the body. Even though they supposedly used purified magic stones, perhaps because the magic stones were not compatible, my body began to release miasma and I heard someone say that it was a failure.”

In other words, it wasn't an experiment to create demons? Or maybe there was a change in the experiments?

“When you were captured by the Empire, did you hear anything about experiments to take in the power of the demon race or magic tools that can transform humans to demons.”

“No. It's true that there were talks about the demon race but the aim was for the annihilation of the demon race. I recall such conversations. Naturally, I did not see any demons either.”

“Annihilation? They weren't in collaboration with the demon race?”

“That’s not the case. If demons appeared, my country would have a hard time maintaining the equilibrium and it won’t be strange if my country got destroyed.”

He laughed and said in a self-demeaning way but those words were enough to confuse me.

What’s going on? I understand that he can’t be lying since he just made a pledge but is the information he holds actually true?

Certainly, I don’t hold a good image of the Empire.

There’s the incident involving Lionel and the others, they tried to secretly crush Ienith, they launched wars and held onto peoples’ weakness to have a supply of slaves so they don’t give a good impression.

However, thinking about it, Lionel and the others are Empire citizens too.

Thinking about it that way, the Empire without their publicly known General is actually ... brittle?

There, I suddenly felt something connect.

And I recalled hearing talks of Lionel still in the Empire.

“Er, have you met the Sen’Oni General?”

” ... I have. He is the perpetrator who buried the magic stone in my body.”

It seems like the imposter is still around, so that’s why Lionel’s notoriety is terrible.

” ... By the way, do you recall the lame slave at Ienith?”

He seemed like he was thinking for a while before he quickly nodded.

“I remember if it’s that old man. He was empathetic and spoke to me.”

Old man ... it’s true that Lionel was an old man when I met him.

While dispelling the memories that surfaced, I imagined Wisdom-dono’s look when he sees the now rejuvenated Lionel as I decided to tell him the truth.

“He is Lionel, that renowned Sen’Oni General. Now he is my retinue and is in Ienith so the one in the Empire is an imposter.”

“That’s impossible! I’m certain that he was called General Lionel and I should have seen his face once before on the battlefield ...”

Wisdom-dono lost his composure but I had a request for Orford-san who was listening to us.

“Orford-san, I’m sorry for the sudden request but could you transform into me?”

” ... Umu. Very well.”

Orford-san used mixed magic, Transformation Magic to transform into me.

“Is this alright?”

Rather than looking similar, it’s totally a carbon copy of myself.

“Thank you ... It’s a strange feeling to see another one of myself. Is this a magic that anybody can use?”

“It’s possible if it is a high order Magician who is capable of mixing the opposite attributes of Water and Fire. However, mixed magic constantly consumed magical power during use so it’s impossible to maintain for long durations?”

“Incidentally, can it be applied to another person?”

“It’s possible ... but, it’s impossible without considerable skill and technique.”

“I see. So Wisdom-dono, what do you think?”

” ... Unbelievable. But, if it’s true ... that time, my face was immediately covered with an iron mask.”

It seems like he has an idea.

Nevertheless, if they are so careful in their preparation, then isn’t there also the possibility that they are monitoring Lionel? However, it’s unlikely that Shisho or Lionel would not notice it.

Was the person who circulated the rumors that I can’t use Holy Attribute Magic perhaps an imposter among my companions?

To Wisdom-dono who was greatly perplexed, I explained from my point of view what kind of person the real Lionel is.

“During battles, Lionel fights to protect his companions. That’s why he is always fighting in the forefront and I feel that he is a true warrior who dislikes deception and strategy.”

” ... A personage like that is the real one? Then who exactly is that man?”

“He would be an imposter.”

” Shit.”

Even if his brain accepts it, because he actually experienced it, he would definitely vent his hatred if he met Lionel.

While thinking about his complication feelings, seeing how I have been acting on the premise that the Empire is involved with the demon race, I decided to first find out more about the Empire.

Since I've asked all that I wanted to ask, next would be to establish a cooperative relationship.

"Then will Wisdom-dono be staying in Nelldal?"

"Ah. That was the plan but my aim for coming here was to find a means to treat my body so ..."

"If so then?"

"Yes. I've achieved my goal so I no longer have any reason to stay here."

"You're glad that you are cured right?"

"Of course. I feel nothing but gratitude towards Luciel-sama. If you ever need my insignificant help for anything in the future, I will do my best to cooperate."

The suffering expression he had until just now was gone and now a smile has returned to his face.

“Thank you. If possible, please spread the word in the Rubruk Kingdom that I have become a Sage.”

“Okay. I’ll tell them that the rumors were meant to ensnare Luciel-sama and they would immediately be convinced once they see my body.”

He said and laughed once again.

After that, I once again told Orford-san of my intent to immediately return to the Church and he guided us to the same room with the magic circle where we first arrived in Nelldal.

“Well then Luciel-dono, I’ll be transferring the three of you to the Church?”

“I’m sorry to trouble you.”

“Umu. Leave it to me. And, that ... would you be giving me that~?”

“Yeah.”

I took out a bottle of honey and took out another bottle as well.

“You’re giving me two?”

“One of it is Object X. If a monster attacks, try to make it drink that. If you can make it drink it, even a Red Dragon can be defeated.”

” ... I’ll take note of it.”

After that, I exchanged magical communication bead magical power with Orford-san and promised to one day meet Wisdom-dono again.

“Well then, I’ll be sending you three, Luciel-dono. Have a cup of honey mead with me the next time you come.”

“Sure. I’ll be in your care.”

“Nadia-kun, Lydia-kun. If you two ever feel like studying magic, I welcome you to come visit again.”

“Okay. If we have a chance to come here again, please show us around the streets of Nelldal.”

“I’ll try my best to be able to use both regular magic and Spirit Magic.”

Listening to their replies, he gave the same good-natured old man smile that he showed us when we first came to Nelldal.

“See you again, Wisdom-dono.”

“I will make sure to spread the message that you’ve attained the Sage job.”

When Orford-san channeled magical power into the magic circle, the magic circle glowed and the next instant, we were swallowed by the light.

Thus, that marked the end of the seemingly long but short three months in Nelldal.